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Arab-Israeli Talks

PLO: 'Last-Minute Crisis' Could Delay Signing

NC0305103094 Paris AFP in English 0906 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 3 (AFP)—The signing of a final agreement to launch Palestinian self-rule, due on Wednesday [4 May], could be delayed because Israel has triggered a last-minute crisis, PLO delegates warned here Tuesday.

They charged Israel had reneged on several points of the deal for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"The climate of the negotiations is not satisfactory because the Israeli side has gone back on several points," one of the delegates, Jamil al-Tarifi, said.

Another delegate warned that the PLO would "not give in under pressure, even if that means that the accord will not be signed tomorrow."

Israel is trying to squeeze last-minute concessions out of the Palestinians because the signing has already been scheduled for Wednesday, he explained, declining to be named.

"The Israelis have retracted on 24 points, including some of the promises made last week by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres such as the right of the Palestinians to issue stamps for (letters sent) abroad," he said.

Delegates charged that Israel had also changed its stand on Palestinian authority in al-Mawasi, next to the Jewish settlements of Gush Katif in the southern Gaza Strip.

Amid the reports of a crisis, the PLO chief negotiator on security issues, General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, went for consultations with officials at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat were to hold talks here later Tuesday.

Their task was to resolve final differences over the size of an autonomous Jericho, and the symbolic presence of a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge linking Jordan to the West Bank.

The signing ceremony set for Wednesday is to be attended by dozens of foreign ministers and more than 2,000 guests.

It was being seen as a personal triumph for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who has toiled to keep the autonomy deal on track through months of tortuous negotiations, mostly in Cairo.

Al-Tarifi: Sides Will Sign

NC0305110494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators continue to meet for the third consecutive day in an attempt to finalize an agreement on the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The Legal Affairs Committee, the Security Committee, and the Committee on Detainees are trying to work out some of the still unsettled points ahead of the signing ceremony, which is scheduled for tomorrow morning, Wednesday.

Lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, who leads the Palestinian team to the Civilian Affairs Committee, said that the Israeli side backtracked on several of the points previously agreed upon. He added that the PLO and Israel will sign the agreement nevertheless.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who are both due in Cairo today, will meet at 1800 at the Presidential Palace to discuss some unresolved issues, particularly those concerning Jericho's area and police presence on the Allenby Bridge.

'Text' of Draft PLO-Israeli Agreement

JN0305095094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 May 94 p 5

["Text" of PLO-Israeli draft agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, dated 28 April—capitalized words as published]

[Text] The government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the representative of the Palestinian people;

Preamble

WITHIN the framework of the Middle East Peace process initiated at Madrid in October 1991;

REAFFIRMING their determination to live in peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity and security while recognising their mutual legitimate and political rights;

REAFFIRMING their adherence to the mutual recognition and commitments expressed in the letters dated September 9, 1993, signed by and exchanged between the Prime Minister of Israel and the Chairman of the PLO;

REAFFIRMING their understanding that the interim self-government arrangements, including the arrangements to apply in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area contained in this agreement, are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338; DESIROUS of putting into effect the Declaration of Principles of interim self-government arrangements signed at Washington, D.C. on September 13, 1993, and the agreed minutes thereto (hereinafter "the Declaration of Principles"), and in particular the protocol on withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area;

HEREBY AGREE to the following arrangements regarding the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area: Article

Definition of the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area

1. For the purpose of this agreement, the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area are delineated on map Nos. 1, and 2 attached to this agreement.

2. The two sides view the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit, the integrity of which will be preserved during the interim period. Article

Scheduled Withdrawal of Israeli Military Forces

1. Israel shall implement an accelerated and scheduled withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip and from the Jericho area beginning immediately with the signing of this agreement and to be completed within three weeks from this date.

2. Subject to the arrangements included in Annex I, the Israeli withdrawal shall include evacuatinig all military bases and other fixed installations to be handed over to the Palestinian police.

3. In order to carry out Israel's responsibility for external security and for internal security and public order of Israeli settlements and Israelis, concurrently with the withdrawal, Israel will redeploy its remaining military forces to the Israeli settlement areas, Israeli settlements and the military installation area shown on map No. 1, in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. Subject to the provisions of this agreement, this redeployment shall constitute full implementation of Article XIII of the Declaration of Principles with regard to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area (P:only).

4. For the purpose of this agreement, "Israeli military forces" may include Israel police and other Israeli security forces.

5. (I: Israelis, including Israeli military forces) (P: Israeli military forces and civilians) may continue to use roads freely within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. (P: Annex I includes provisions allowing Palestinians to use freely certain roads within the Israeli settement areas.)

6. The Palestinian police force shall be deployed and shall assume responsibility for public order and internal security of Palestinians in accordance with this agreement and its annex I. Article

Jurisdiction (Note: This article is being addressed by the legal committee). Article

Transfer of Authority

1. Israel shall transfer authority as specified in this agreement from the Israeli military government and its civil administration to a Palestinian authority, hereby established, in accordance with article—(jurisdiction) of this agreement, except for the authority that Israel shall continue to exercise as specified in this agreement.

2. As regards the transfer and assumption of authority in civil spheres, powers and responsibilities shall be transferred and assumed as set out in the protocol concerning civil affairs attached as Annex II.

3. The Palestinian authority shall have the structure described in annex II, article I (I: and shall be comprised of the members listed herein) (P: The PLO shall inform the government of Israel of the names of the members of the Palestinian Authority and any changes thereof.)

4. Arrangements for a smooth and peaceful transfer of the agreed powers and responsibilities are set out in annex II.

5. Upon the completion of the Israeli withdrawal and the transfer of powers and responsibilities as detailed in paragraph Nos. 1 and 2 above and in annex II, the civil administration in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area will be dissolved and the Israeli military government will be withdrawn. The withdrawal of the military government shall not prevent it from continuing to exercise the powers and responsibilities specified in this agreement.

6. A joint civil affairs coordination and cooperation committee and two joint regional civil affairs subcommittee for the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area respectively will be established in order to provide for coordination and cooperation in civil affairs between the Palestinian authority and Israel, as detailed in annex II.

7. The offices of the Palestinian authority shall be located in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area pending the inauguration of the council to be elected pursuant to the Declaration of Principles. Article

Legislative Powers of the Palestinian Authority

1. The Palestinian authority will have the power, within its jurisdiction to promulgate legislation, including basic laws, laws, regulations and other legislative acts.

2. Legislation promulgated by the Palestinian authority shall be consistent with the provisions of this agreement, (I: and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political persuasion, nationality or social origin).

3. Legislation which exceeds the jurisdiction of the Palestinian authority of which is inconsistent with the provisions of this agreement shall be null and void.

4. Legislation to of the Palestinian Authority shall to communicated to a legislation sub-committee to be established by the joint civil affairs coordination and cooperation committee (hereinafter "the legislation sub-committee)" for its review. [sentence as published] During a period of 30 days from the communication of the legislation, Israel may request that the Legislation Sub-Committee decide whether such legislation exceeds the jurisdication of the Palestinian authority or is overwise inconsistent with the provisions of the agreement.

5. Upon the receipt of the Israel request, the legislation sub-committee shall decide, as an initial matter, on the entry into force of the legislation pending its decision on the merits of the matter.

6. If the Legislation Sub-Committee is unable to reach a decision with regard ot the entry into force of the legislation within 15 days, this issue will be referred to a board of review, comprised of two judges (or retired judges), one from each side.

For this purpose, the two sides shall compile a list of six judges (or retired judges), three from each side, approved by both sides. In order to allow fast-track proceeding before this board of review, the two most senior judges (or retired judges), one from each side, shall develop wirtten informal rules of procedures of those proceedings.

7. Legislation referred to the board of review shall enter into force only if the board of review decides that it does not deal with a security issue which falls under the Israel's responsibility, that the alleged violation does not seriously threaten other significant Israeli interests protected by this agreement and that the entry into force of the legislation could not cause irreparable damage or harm.

8. The Legislation Sub-Committee shall attempt to reach a decision on the merits of the matter within 30 days from the date of the Israeli request. If this sub-committee is unable to reach such a decision within this period of 30 days, the matter shall be referred to the joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee.

9. Where the legislation has not entered into force pursuant to paragraph Nos. 5 or 7 above, such situation shall be maintained pending the decision of the joint Israel-Palestinian liaison committee on the merits of the matter, unless it has decided otherwise.

10. Laws and military orders in effect in the Gaza Strip or Jericho area prior to the signing of this agreement shall remain in force, unless amended or aborgated in accordance with this agreement. Article

Arrangements for Security and Public Order

1. In order to guarantee public order and internal security for the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho areas, the Palestinian authority shall establish a strong police force, as set out in Article...(PDPF) below. Israel shall continue to carry the responsibility for defence against external threats, including the responsibility for protecting the Egyptian border and the Jordanian line, and for defence against external threats from the sea and from the air, as well as the responsibility for overall security of Israelis and Israelis settlement for the purpose of safeguarding their internal security and public order.

2. Agreed security arrangements and coordination mechanisms are specified in annex I.

3. A joint coordination and cooperation committee for mutual security purposes, as well as three join coordination and cooperation offices for the Gaza District, the Khan Yunis district and the Jericho district respectively, are hereby established as provided for in annex I.

4. The security arrangement provided for in this agreement and in annex I may be reviewed at the request of either party and may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties. Specific review arrangements are included in annex I. Article

The Palestinian Directorate of Police Force

1. In order to guarantee public order and internal security for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, the Palestinian authority shall establish a strong police force—the Palestinian directorate of police force (hereinafter "the Palestinian police"). The duties, functions, structure, deployment and composition of the Palestinian police, together with provisions regarding its equipment and operation, are set out in annex I, article... Rules of conduct governing the activities of the Palestinian police are set out in annex I, article...

2. Except for the Palestinian police referred to in this article and the Israeli military forces referred in article— no other armed forces shall be established or operate in the Gaza Strip or the Jericho area.

3. Except for the arms, ammunition and equipment of the Palestinian police described in annex I, article— neither the Palestinian Authority, nor any organisation of individual in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, shall manufacture, sell, acquire, possess, import of otherwise introduce into the Gaza Strip or the Jericho area, any firearms, ammunition, weapons explosives, gunpowder or any related equipment.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3. above:

(a) The Palestinian authority may grant licences permitting the use of explosives and gunpowder for civilian use and shall supervise such use. Such licensing and supervision shall be subject to the approval of the JSC. the JSC shall agree on standard conditions to be included in such licences, and on means of inspection and notification.

(b) Each side may grant licences permitting the possession and carrying of pistols for self defence purposes. Arrangements in this regard are set out in annex I, paragraph— Article

Passages

Arrangements for coordination between Israel and the Palestinian authority regarding the Gaza-Egypt and Jericho-Jordan passages, as well as any other agreed international crossings, are set out in annex I, article... Article

Safe Passage Between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area

Arrangements for safe passage of persons and transportation between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area are set out in annex I, article... Article

Relations between Israel and the Palestinian authority

1. Israel and the Palestinian Authority shall seek to foster mutual understandinig and tolerance and shall accordingly abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by the organisations, groups of individuals within their jurisdiction.

2. Without derogating from the other provisions of this agreement, Israel and the Palestinian authority shall cooperate in combatting criminal activity which may affect both sides, including: offences related to the trafficking in illegal drugs and psychotropic substances, smuggling, and offences against property, including offences related to vehicles, such as theft of vehicles and vehicle parts. Article

Economic Relations

The economic relations between the two sides are set out in the Protocol on Economic Relations signed in Paris on April 29, 1994 and the Appendices thereto, attached as Annex IV, and will be governed by the relevant provisions of this agreement and its annexes. Article

Human Rights and Rule of Law

Israel and the Palestinian authority shall exercise their powers and responsibilities, pursuant to this agreement, with due regard to international accepted norms and principles of human rights and the rule of law. Article

The Joint Israel-Palestinian Liaison Committee

1. The Joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee established pursuant to article X of the Declaration of Principles shall ensure the smooth implementation fo this agreement. It shall deal with issues requiring coordination, other issues of common interest and disputes.

2. The joint committee shall be composed of an equal number of members from each party. It may add other technicians and experts as necessary.

3. The joint committee shall adopt its rule of procedure, including the frequency and place or places of its meetings.

4. The joint committee shall reach its decisions by agreement. Article

Liaison and Cooperation with Jordan and Egypt

1. Pursuant to article XII of the Declaration of Priciples, the two parties shall invite the governments of Jordan and Egypt to participate in establishing further liaison and cooperation arrangements between the government of Israel and the Palestinian representatives on the one hand, the governments of Jordan and Egypt, on the other hand, to promote cooperation between them. These arrangements shall include the constitution of a continuing committee.

2. The continuing committee shall decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of pesons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder.

3. The continuing committee shall deal with other matters of common concern. Article

Settlement of Differences and Disputes

1. Any differences relations tot he application of this agreement shall be referred to the appropriate coordination and cooperation mechanism under this agreement. The provisions of article XV of the Declaration of Principles shall apply to any such differences which is not settled through the apppropriate coordination and liaison mechanism, namely:

(i) Disputes arising out of the application of interpretation of this agreement or any subsequent agreements pertaining to the interim period shall be settled by negotiations through the joint liaison committee. Article

Prevention of Hostile Acts

Both sides shall take all measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime and hostilities directed against each other, against individuals falling under the other's jurisdiction and against their property, and shall take legal measures against offenders. In this regard, the Palestinian side shall also take all measures necessary to prevent such hostile acts directed against the Israeli settlement areas and the infrastructure serving them and the military installation area. Article

Missing Israelis

The Palestinian authority shall cooperate with Israel by providing all necessary assistance in the conduct of searches by Israel within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area for missing Israelis. Article

Confidence-Building Measures

[I: Israel and the Palestinian authority will implement confidence building measures, including the release of detainees and prisoners held by Israel, and the protection of persons who have or are believed to have cooperated or collaborated with Israel, as detailed in the protocol attached as Annex VII.] Article

Temporary International Presence

[P:1. The Parties agree to a temporary international presence in PNA (Palestine National Authority) territory, including international observers, instructors and other elements.

2. The international presence shall consist of qualified personnel from the donor countries.

3. A special fund from donor countries shall be established to provide finance for this international presence and ensure its maintenance.

4. The international presence may be renewed one year after its deployment by agreement.

5. A trilateral cooperation and coordination mechanism, shall be estbalished.

6. Israel and the Palestinian authority shall negotiate a special protocol that will implement this article.] Article

Rights, Liabilities and Obligations

1. A. The transfer of the agreed powers and responsibilities to the Palestinian authority, as detailed in Annex II, includes all related rights, liabilities and obligations of the Israeli military government and its civil administration arising with regard to acts or omissions which accurred prior to the transfer. Israel will cease to bear any financial responsibility regarding such acts or omissions and the Palestinian authority will bear all financial responsibility for these and for its own functioning.

B. Any financial claim made in this regard against Israel will be referred to the Palestinian authority.

C. Where legal proceedings are brought in respect of such a claim, Israel will notify the Palestinian authority and enable it to participate in defending the claim.

D. In the event that an award is made against Israel by any court or tribunal in respect of such a claim, the Palestinian authority shall reimburse Israel and the full amount of the award.

C. [letter as published] Without prejudice to the above, where a court of tribunal hearing such a claim finds that liability rests solely with an employee or agent who acted beyond the scope of the powers assigned to him or her, the Palestinian authority shall not bear financial responsibility.

2. The transfer of authority in itself shall not affect rights, liabilities and obligations of any person or legal entity, in existence at the date of signing of this agreement. Article

Final Clauses

1. This agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing.

2. The arrangements established by this agreement shall remain in force until and to extent superseded by the interim agreement referred to in the Declaration of Principles or any other agreement between the parties.

3. The five-year transitional period referred to ini the Declaration of Principels shall commence on...

4. As part of Israel's responsibility for external security in accordance with this agreement, in the event of the outbreak of general hostilities or the imminent threat of such hostilities, or where the Palestinian authority is unable to prevent attacks against Israeli settlements or Israelis so that their security is threatened, Israel may take all measures necessary to respond to such events, including the introduction of additional military forces wherever required, until the termination of the hostilities or the removal of the threat.

5. The parties agree that, as long as this agreement is in force, the security fence erected by Israel around the Gaza Strip shall remain in place and that the line demarcated by the fence, as shown on map no. 1, shall be authoritative only for the purpose of this agreement.

6. Nothing in this agreement shall prejudice or preempt the outcome of the negotiations on the interim agreement or on the permanent status to be conducted pursuant to the Declaration of Principles. Neither party shall be deemed by virtue of having entered into this agreement, to have renounced or waived any of its existing rights, claims or positions.

7. The Gaza Strip and the Jericho area will continue to be an integral part of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and their status shall not be changed for the period of this agreement. Nothing in this agreement shall be considered to change this status.

8. The preamble to this agreement, and all annexes, appendices and maps attached hereto, shall constitute an integral part hereof.

Done in Cairo this 4th day of May, 1994 **For the government of Israel For the PLO**

Signing Ceremony Agenda, Attendees Noted

NC0205140494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will address a ceremony in the Conference Hall in Madinat Nasr at 1100 [0900 GMT] on Wednesday [4 May] for the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will also address the ceremony, after which the U.S. and Russian foreign ministers will deliver speeches before signing of the agreement.

Announcing this, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands, Japan, Morocco, and Qatar, and the Omani and Tunisian ministers of state for foreign affairs will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday.

Musa added that a bilateral meeting will be held tomorrow between Palestinian President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and that meetings will be held with the foreign ministers who are due to arrive in Cairo.

The foreign minister said the agreement is a step along the road and not the end of the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Replying to a question on the U.S. efforts to advance negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, Musa said: We are talking about a comprehensive peace process. Egypt backs all serious and important steps that lead to progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Sha'th Interviewed on PLO-Israel Agreement

JN0205194094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1727 GMT 2 May 94

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, chief PLO negotiator at the Israeli-Palestinian Cairo talks, by Faridah al-Shubashi in Cairo on 2 May—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Two days separate us from the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. What is the status of the negotiations and what have the two sides accomplished so far?

[Sha'th] We are about to reach a full agreement that will cover all aspects of life in Gaza and Jericho and will be ready for the signature of President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin Wednesday morning, 4 May. This agreement now is in its final stages. Of course some issues require final decisions [words indistinct] issues related to stationing a Palestinian officer on the Allenby bridge and crossings, [words indistinct] on the Gaza coast. Other issues will be completed before reaching this agreement, God willing. This agreement will also include the agreements reached by the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in the Paris economic talks. The entire economic agreement will become one of the elements of this agreement, which we will sign here.

The agreement will also cover all the civilian and security issues and all the powers the Palestinian authority will exercise. All security issues related to the Israeli withdrawal and the [word indistinct] and deployment of the Palestinian police, as well as the agreement on releasing the detainees. What remains is the drafting of certain articles related to the preamble of the agreement and some agreements that were agreed on in principle between President 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Peres here in Cairo; that is, the Palestinian passport, its form and details; the international presence agreed on in Gaza and Jericho and its details; the Palestinian postage stamp and the Palestinians' right to international postal union; and certain issues related to special Palestinian powers at the Rafah crossing. We agreed that the Rafah crossing will be open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and will be open not only for people but for trucks, goods, and private vehicles. The special crossing between Gaza and Jericho was agreed to be open 365 days a year for people, goods, and vehicles. The final touches will be put on all these issues today and tomorrow.

[Al-Shubashi] In the news conference held when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Peres were present in Cairo—held jointly with President Mubarak—'Arafat said that he hoped for tangible progress so that he could present it to his people. Does this mean that the Palestinian president is still unable to say that he has anything to present to his people?

[Sha'th] Until this moment we are still negotiating. We have not implemented [word indistinct] to put what we negotiated into practice. Will this really happen the morning after the agreement, that is, Thursday or Friday after the signing ceremony on Wednesday? The Palestinians [word indistinct] thousands of detainees will be let out of prisons; hundreds of deportees will return to their children; 6,000 Palestinian soldiers and officers will return to the homeland with their families. The doors will be open and the Israeli withdrawal will take a speedy form and there will be daily hand-overs of camps occupied by the Israeli Army to the Palestinian people and police. The Palestinian authority will enter led by brother Yasir 'Arafat. This authority will take over all the powers the Israelis have been exercising.

The Palestinian citizen will feel the great difference, and the long hours of suffering as a result of searches and interrogation, more searching and interrogations, will end. The economic assistance will begin pouring in and the Palestinian economic institutions will be established to provide a decent living for our people gradually. Many things will happened. The Gaza airport will be opened after a short time from the entry of ... [pauses] and [word indistinct] in Gaza and Jericho, travel between Gaza and Jericho and then travel between Gaza and Cairo. Preparations will begin to establish an international airport as soon as possible. Ships will start arriving at Gaza in preparation for the opening of the Gaza international harbor. The fishermen will suddenly have the right to fish up to 20 miles without restrictions. The shores will open and the major part of the security restrictions that prevented the people of Gaza even from eating fish will end. They will find that the shore is theirs. The Israeli presence, which is sitting on their chests in the camps and streets, will end and they will find their children wearing the Palestinian uniform, Palestinian flags, and the Palestinian insignia offering protection for them instead of pursuing and repressing them everywhere. All of this and much more will be what brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sees as the tangible results on the ground.

[Al-Shubashi] Dr. Nabil, last question: What was the U.S. stand that the U.S. secretary of state brought him? Has the United States begun to realize that the Palestinian problem should be solved with at least a minimum of justice?

[Sha'th] No doubt there is a feeling that the lost time is over and there can be no possibility for any more delay. The implementation of the Declaration of Principles should go ahead and implementation of other steps in the Palestinian arena should continue in terms of an early transfer of power in the West Bank and Israeli's withdrawal from the West Bank cities and villages, and then the final solution for the Palestinian problem should begin in a complete manner. We have heard from Peres that Israel will shorten the transitional period from five to three years. This means that we must begin negotiating on the West Bank immediately. This is for the Palestinian arena...

[Al-Shubashi, interrupting] Including the removal of the settlements?

[Sha'th] No doubt, the issue of the settlements will immediately enter the final negotiations. There is no solution without a full removal of these settlements. Moreover, Jerusalem is at the heart of our actions. Measures related to Jerusalem must begin immediately and negotiations on Jerusalem must begin immediately. In principles, all restriction on the city of Jerusalem and the other West Bank cities must end. By the way, there will be no barriers between Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank. There will be no measurers relating to entry and departure from these territories. We are applying the measures pertaining to the fact that, even at the first stage, the West Bank and Gaza are an integrated whole, inseparable, and whole territorial entity.

But I say that the United States clearly is interested in beginning the solution in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. Therefore, Christopher's travel to Damascus, then to Israel, and then to Damascus is to emphasize the idea of a comprehensive solution and the need for implementation to begin on the Syrian front and on the Jordanian and Lebanese front and not only on the Palestinian front.

[Al-Shubashi] Why has Israel criticized Egypt's recent role and protested against it?

[Sha'th] I do not know. All I can imagine is that Egypt has never denied that it has been working to support Palestinian rights and has never said it was a neutral state. It is true that it is tied to Israel by a treaty—which Egypt has respected fully and proven that through peace, rights and security for all will be realized—but Egypt never said that it was a neutral state between the Palestinians and Israel and has worked throughout the negotiations to back Palestinian rights. If this sometimes angers the Israelis then let it be.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

Sha'th on Talks With Israelis, Agreement

NC0205165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli talks aimed at reaching agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, has said the two delegations have almost completed drafting the major part of the agreement. He added that the Israeli withdrawal from self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho will actually begin the day of the signing, Wednesday [4 May].

In press statements today, he said the remaining issues concern some security arrangements in Gaza, the maritime borders of the self-rule authority in Gaza, and the map of Gaza. He noted that discussion of these issues will be completed this evening and that the discussion on legal jurisdiction is almost over.

Sha'th said the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States, and Russia will sign the final agreement in addition to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

He affirmed that the agreement stipulates that the Israeli withdrawal will be completed within three weeks following the signing and he noted that the Israeli side has pledged to complete the withdrawal in two weeks.

He said some Israeli camps will be evacuated Thursday evening or Friday morning after the signing and that the withdrawal will begin the day of the signing.

He said a unit made up of 1,000 Palestinian policemen will enter Gaza and Jericho Thursday morning and that the remainder of the force will arrive within three weeks.

This force is comprised of 9,000 personnel, 7,000 of whom come from outside the occupied territories and 2,000 from inside.

Sha'th said that a Palestinian security delegation led by Ziyad al-Atrash will arrive in Cairo today. He noted that the Palestinian police are ready to enter Gaza and Jericho immediately after the Israeli withdrawal and denied Israeli claims to the contrary.

As for the Palestinian detainees, the Palestinian official said that all points concerning the timetable of their release have been agreed upon. He said that every Palestinian, whether an individual or member of a Palestinian organization, should be bound by the agreements and pledges to which the PLO has committed itself.

Commenting on the meeting of the committee in charge of detainees, Sha'th said that a meeting was held yesterday evening with Israeli General Yantof Sameh to draw up the timetable for the detainees' release.

In another development, sources close to negotiations have told MENA that the points still under discussion are related to territorial waters. The Palestinians demand 12 nautical miles, while the Israelis insist on giving them only three nautical miles.

As for mapping lands around roads, the Israelis want to set aside 55 meters on either side of each road that is not to be disposed of or built on. The Palestinians want this area to be 35 meters on each side.

In another development, it has been learned that some 40-to-50 Palestinian deportees will return to Gaza and Jericho the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, and that 1,000 detainees will be released on Thursday, the day after the autonomy agreement is signed.

It has also been learned that Israel has agreed to give the Palestinians 20 nautical miles for fishing purposes. The issue of joint patrols along parallel roads has not been settled yet.

PLO Delegate al-Qidrah Comments on Agreement

NC0205133694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1238 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli delegations resumed their final round of negotiations today to put the final touches on the agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho before signing it in Cairo on Wednesday [4 May].

In a statement to MENA, Palestinian delegation member Khalid al-Qidrah affirmed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will enter the self-rule area in Jericho and Gaza a month after the agreement has been signed. He added that all the Palestinian police force personnel will have entered the area and taken up their positions before 'Arafat arrives.

The force is made up of 9,000 men, 6,000 of whom are from outside the occupied territories and 3,000 from inside.

Al-Qidrah said that as soon as the agreement is signed, 1,500 members of the Palestinian police force will enter the self-rule areas and their families will join them later.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian-Israeli Coordination Committee formed under the Cairo Accord will be chaired on the Palestinian side by Ziyad al-Atrash and on the Israeli side by Yantof Sameh [name as transliterated], who was the Gaza ruler a few months ago.

Sources at the negotiations said Muhammad Dahlan, official in charge in security in the Gaza Strip, and Nasr Yusuf, official in charge of police there who is due in Cairo later today, will arrive in the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

The sources noted that the agreement to implement self-rule in Gaza and Jericho to be signed by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is about 200 pages. In addition to the general agreement, the sources added, the accord contains four appendixes; the first concerns the economic agreement signed in Paris last Friday, the second deals with security arrangements, the third with legal jurisdiction, and the fourth with civil authority.

Al-Qidrah affirmed that the work of the Legal Affairs Committee is in the final stages because it is now drafting clauses concerning criminal jurisdiction.

He explained that the issue of al-Mawasi, areas on the Mediterranean coast extending into the Gaza waters, has been settled as nature reserves are under Palestinian jurisdiction. He said the question of territorial waters on the Mediterranean opposite the strip will be decided during today's talks.

Sources close to the negotiations have said that a report on the hand over of Palestinian collaborators with the occupation authorities to the self-rule authority is untrue. The sources affirmed that the collaborator issue was settled during the talks in Taba within the context of the Confidence-Building Committee and that the collaborators will obtain Israeli nationality and the Palestinian self-rule authority will issue them pardons.

Israeli Official on Hebron Observers' Tasks

TA0205163594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] In Copenhagen, senior Israeli and Palestinian officials this afternoon signed a mandate for an unarmed international observer force in Hebron. Representatives from Norway, Denmark, and Italy are due to arrive in Israel on Thursday [5 May], and they will be stationed in Hebron by Sunday. The document was signed by Yohanan Bein, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director general, and Zuhdi al-Tarzi, a foreign policy adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. Bein, talking to No'omi Segal about the observers responsibilities:

[Begin recording] [Bein] Their job is exactly defined, and that is to help promote stability and an appropriate environment conducive to the enhancement of the well-being of the Palestinians in Hebron and their economic development; and to monitor the efforts to restore safety of the Palestinians and events effecting it, and the return to normal life in the city of Hebron.

[Segal] Will the observers be armed?

[Bein] No, they will not be armed, although in the original agreement they may be armed with pistols for their self-defense. But it was agreed among the three participating countries—Norway, Denmark, and Italy—that they do not want to be armed.

[Segal] What is Israel's response to that? Do security forces feel that in addition to being responsible for the security of Jewish and Palestinian residents of Hebron, they will now also have to be responsible for the observers?

[Bein] Well, there is no question about it that the only ones responsible for any security aspect in the area is Israel. That is very clear, we are there and the Civil Administration and the military authorities are respon sible for security. But these countries feel that those observers walking around with white uniforms and with arm bands and in cars which are clearly marked, they will be safer without pistols than with pistols.

[Segal] How can their presence deter any kind of clashes between Jewish settlers and Palestinians there? Do you have any assurances that those sides will respect their presence and that they will be a factor in preventing any kind of clashes?

[Bein] Well, their presence cannot prevent clashes. For that there are security forces there, and they are going to prevent it. What they are going to do is to report on any incident, and that's the only job of an observer. He reports, he doesn't interfere. Mainly the Palestinians, but we too, believe that the very presence of some observers, and clearly when they are with a white uniform, standing there with binoculars, and maybe with a camera, and writing down the details, the very presence of people like this in the area might induce tranquility. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Secretary General Visits Libya

Comments on Arrival

LD3004210094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah where he was welcomed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

After his arrival, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made a statement to JANA in which he said:

In the name of God the merciful and the comassionate, it is my pleasure to be in Tripoli today. It is always a happy opportunity for me to visit sisterly Libya and meet the brother Colonel [al-Qadhdhafi] and the brothers officials to exchange views in respect of all that concern us all. It is also an opportunity to review a number of matters that concern us, Libya and the Arab world. No doubt I will listen and get more knowledge of the situation. It is always a pretty opportunity to visit Libya and I am very happy about this visit. [passage omitted]

Meets With al-Kharrubi

LD0105102894 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0736 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening in Tripoli, Armed Forces Inspector General Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi met Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, efforts made by the Arab League to find a just and peaceful solution to the so-called Lockerbie affair were reviewed and several other Arab and international issues discussed. [passage omitted]

Confers With al-Qadhdhafi

LD0205133594 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa [May] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution yesterday received Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the League of Arab States, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. The meeting discussed the role of the League of Arab States in meeting the dangerous challenges threatening the Arab nation so as to safeguard national sovereignty. Also new developments at Arab and international levels were discussed.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was present as the leader of the great al fateh revolution was welcomed by the popular masses of Tarhunah.

Comments on Lockerbie

LD0205145494 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, yesterday evening held a news conference in Tripoli, in which he expressed his happiness at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah and his meeting with the brother leader of the revolution. He underlined the positive results achieved by this visit. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah had dealt with the so-called Lockerbie case and the recent development that occurred at the meeting of the Arab League council, at the level of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo. He said: At the council we achieved a unanimous Arab decision that the Arab League should put forward an initiative, with the accord of member-states, for finding a peaceful settlement of this artificial case. He pointed out that the idea of a trial at the International Court of Justice in The Hague had won the support of the Arab countries. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that bringing the suspects before a neutral side accords with the requirements of justice and with the discovery of the truth. He said further: I have informed the U.S., Britain, and France of this decision agreed upon by the Arab League, and I have also informed the secretary general of the United Nations and the chairman of the Security Council in March.

He stressed that there was nothing there to justify a rejection by the Western states of this proposal, and he underlined in this respect that the position of the Great Jamahiriyah was founded on legitimacy and a sound legal basis and that we must stick to it, insist on it, and call for its implementation. He made clear that this issue was exhaustively discussed, and that when he returned to Cairo he would make moves in this respect. He said: We will carry on our moves together with our eagerness at the same time to stress the legitimate nature of the Libyan position and its tallying with international law, because the Great Jamahiriyah had tackled this crisis with the appropriate legal means.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also said: Right is on our side and we must stick to it, insist on it and discuss it, and the coming stage will witness a coordination in order to explain the Arab viewpoint on this position, which has become an all-Arab position and not just that of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Concerning the possibility of the Arab states abandoning the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah, particularly now that much evidence has emerged that proved that the Great Jamahiriyah was innocent of this accusation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The Arab countries have the power of decision in what they do, and he stressed that the decision taken by the recent meetings of the Arab League council to back and support the Arab Libyan position was now an all-Arab position that must be also taken into account by the Western sides. The secretary general reiterated the rejection by the Arab League of the unjust resolutions, and he underlined that the so-called Security Council had double-standards. He said: I have said frankly that we did not accept this style and this situation. He said: We will strive for a debate on this matter, and we will try all possibilities to refute the position of the West in this respect, and we will strive to clarify the issue to a number of the Security Council member states. This will be done in the coming weeks, he said. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Meets Christopher, Discusses Agreement

TA0205162894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by Ya'el Ayalon—recorded]

[Text] [Ayalon] On the margins of his Syrian-Israeli talks, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spent some 90 minutes with Palestinian dignitaries this afternoon. The meeting was attended by nine notables, including Faysal al-Husayni, Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, and Hanan 'Ashrawi. It should be noted that the meeting at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem was held at the request of the Palestinians. At the end of the meeting, Faysal al-Husayni said that in it the Palestinians raised their reservations with the Gaza and Jericho agreement, two days before it is to be signed in Cairo.

[Al-Husayni, in English] We have two problems: One problem concerning the implementation and the attitude of the Israeli side on the ground, especially on the isolation of Jerusalem; and we make it clear that if such a policy will going on, and if it will not be stopped, it can be the element which can kill such opportunity to sign for such opportunity to implementation of any kind of agreements.

[Ayalon translates and continues] The Palestinians also fear the practical implementation of the agreement by Israel on the ground. It is impossible, al-Husayni argues, that Rabin and 'Arafat agree to decide on the size of the Jericho area, while in practice, Israel has already started erecting a fence around it.

[Al-Husayni, in English] We do not like the idea that they are saying that the size of Jericho will be decided between Rabin and 'Arafat, and then we are watching now that the Israelis are already building and putting this borders. We do not like it.

[Ayalon] The secretary listened to the reservations, but did not comment. Earlier, Christopher met President 'Ezer Weizman, but the two decided not to disclose the content of the meeting.

'Arafat Stresses Building National Authority

LD0205183594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, today sent a message of congratulations to the members of the Ramallah Club, which this year is holding its meetings in the occupied territories. In his message, brother Abu-'Ammar affirms that the edification of our national authority as a first step toward the setting up of an independent state requires the use and mobilization of all the energies and potentials of our people. Here is the text of the message of brother Abu-'Ammar:

Brother and sister members of the Ramallah Club, honorable friends and guests, greetings to you. On the occasion of the convening of your conference for this year in Ramallah on the soil of our dear homeland, I address my sincerest greetings, my congratulations and heartfelt wishes to you all, to the honorable friends and guests, and all the sons of our people in the homeland and in the diaspora. I wish your conference success in its work and I wish it will realize its objectives, with the hope that your conference next year will be held on the soil of the homeland when the long night of occupation will have lifted for our people, who will have gained freedom and independence and secured sovereignty over their national territory.

Your conference is being convened at a time when we are close to starting to reap the first fruit of the long march of the struggle of our people, during which they have made the greatest sacrifices. This first fruit is the end of the Israeli occupation of dear parts of the territory of our dear homeland Palestine in Gaza and Jericho, and the beginning of a new stage of struggle which is no less important and difficult, namely the stage of edification and construction, the building of infrastructure, and the setting up of institutions and bodies in order to establish our national authority and entrench its bases and foundations as a first step toward the setting up of our independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. This requires the use and mobilization of all the energies and potentials of our people with all seriousness and loyalty so as to secure the success of this march and lead it to its objective; to work with all objectivity and eagerness in order to preserve the national unity of our people; and to strengthen and entrench this unity, so that it may be the guarantee of our success in building our free, civilized, and democratic Palestinian society.

Our people are facing a great challenge, and they deserve to tackle it, given the glorious history of our people, and given their energies, capabilities, and potentials which enable them to march toward the future with confident steps to succeed and overcome all difficulties, no matter how great, to realize their progress and prosperity, to take their proper place among the peoples of the world, and to take part in the progress and prosperity of the region and in the march of the civilization of mankind.

I reiterate my greetings to you and I shake your hands. See you soon, God willing, in our beloved homeland Palestine, within our own independent state, to raise the high and floating banners of our people and nation over the churches, mosques, and walls of our holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent state, Almighty God willing. It is revolution until victory, until our floating banners are raised over Jerusalem, with the help of Almighty God.

'Arafat Receives Message From Russia's Kozyrev

LD0205174694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The brother leader president, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], received yesterday evening Mr. Boris Shchiborin, the Russian ambassador to Tunisia, yesterday evening. During the meeting, the brother leader was handed a message from Mr. Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, dealing with the latest developments in the peace process.

Executive Committee Views 'Oppression' in Jerusalem

LD0205210394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] During its meeting held on 1 May, the PLO Executive Committee discussed the dangerous situation in Jerusalem. This holy city is being exposed to the most serious isolation by the occupation authorities with a view to cutting it off from the rest of the Palestinian territories and dividing the Palestinian land itself.

The occupation authorities have taken unprecedented measures by depriving the Palestinian nationals of their natural right to enter the city of Jerusalem, including the right to visit holy Islamic and Christian sites to perform their rites. These authorities have gone so far as to violate the most basic rights and human values, including the right to life. They are preventing doctors, teachers, and employees from working in the city in their hospitals, schools, and other jobs. They are also preventing students living outside the city from going to school. They are preventing women, families, and couples, some of whom live in the city and others outside it, from being together.

Discrimination, oppression, and violation of human rights are taking place while the Israeli Government is claiming that it intends to start a new page in its relationship with the Palestinian people. However, these measures and this harassment have become more vicious over the past few days under the guise of steps aimed at preparing for the signing of the first practical Palestinian- Israeli peace accord.

The PLO regards the encirclement, isolation, repressive measures, and continuing settlement in Jerusalem and its suburbs as incompatible with the essence, the foundations, and the texts of the peace accord, including Israel's commitment through the exchange of letters not to touch Jerusalem and its civilian and religious institutions and the rights of Palestinian nationals in general.

The PLO stresses that these Israeli measures will eventually undermine the peace moves because Jerusalem's future is a basic element in the peace process. The PLO also calls on the Arab and Islamic states to adopt a firm position toward the danger that is threatening the future of holy Jerusalem and its steadfast population, especially when Israel is calling for, under the guise of the peace process, moves toward the normalization of relations and the lifting of the economic boycott. It is doing this while it is continuing its dangerous measures to determine the future of holy Jerusalem by imposing a fait accompli.

The PLO holds the cosponsors and the states contributing to the peace process, particularly Russia, the United States, and the European Community, responsible for this dangerous situation and its effect on the future of the entire peace process. The PLO will take a series of measures to protect the future of the holy city and the population living there and the inalienable rights of our people in the city. These rights have been stressed by all of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Fatah Member Calls For Forming Front With Jordan

JN0105114194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 May 94 p 4

[Excerpt] Amman—Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan has called for the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian popular front formed from the popular political bodies, forces, and personalities in order to contain the dangers of the Oslo Gaza-Jericho First agreement and to develop a common understanding among all the influential forces in the society.

Addressing a symposium organized by the International and Islamic Studies and Information Center, moderated by Bilal al-Tall, head of the center, in the presence of the secretaries general of the parties, al-Hasan added: We are on the threshold of a new and serious stage, especially since it was agreed in Bucharest that meetings would begin on 3 May and that an agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides would be signed on 5 May regardless of the outstanding problems. The signing will be accompanied by the entry into Gaza and Jericho of a 6,000-strong Palestinian police force and 500 civilians who will work in various departments. Al-Hasan described the entry of the Palestinian police force as a fireworks display.

He called for concentrated efforts during the next phase to confront and find an alternative to the Israeli strategy, especially since Israel is currently undergoing political, security, and economic difficulties. [passage omitted]

Police Chief Comments on Plans for Gaza, Jericho

94AF0180A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17 Apr 94 p 24

[Interview with Major General Nasr Yusuf, Palestinian police chief, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given—first two paragraphs are AL-MAJALLAH introduction]

[Text] While Palestinian-Israeli negotiations continue in Cairo in an effort to solve disputes, preparatory to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the Palestinian police forces have completed their preparations and training as they await the handover of the security of those areas after the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

In an effort to find out more about the Palestinian security arrangements in Gaza and Jericho, and the mission of the Palestinian police, AL-MAJALLAH conducted this interview with Major General Nasr Yusuf, chief of the Palestinian Police Force, who also took part in the negotiations with the Israelis.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What are the security arrangements being adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Gaza and Jericho after the signing of the agreement?

[Yusuf] For our part, all measures and all preparations have been made for complete control of security conditions. There is a precise plan, already adopted, to fill the security vacuum that will occur in the regions as soon as the Israeli forces withdraw, and to prevent any chaos or tension. The Palestinian deployment forces have been instructed to carry out their duties immediately. All that remains is that we be permitted to enter the areas. This is at the core of the present dispute in the negotiations with the Israelis.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How many Palestinian policemen have you and the Israelis agreed to deploy to undertake law and order duties in Gaza and Jericho?

[Yusuf] That step is still the subject of dispute between us and the Israelis. The Israelis have not set the final number. Every time they agree with us on specific numbers, they back away from that commitment. For our part, we attach importance only to the numbers that will be agreed upon inside the negotiation chambers.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Have the Palestinian security cadres responsible for intelligence and the protection of senior Palestinian commanders in Gaza and Jericho—such as President Yasir 'Arafat and his top aides—now actually been formed?

[Yusuf] Yes. This matter was concluded finally, and all the special forces for these objectives have been assembled. The security forces working with intelligence have been appointed and equipped. Their mission, the areas of their deployment, the format for their cooperation with intelligence—domestically and abroad, with the Arab and European states cooperating with the Palestinian autonomous authority—have all been defined. The same is the case with the forces that will guard and protect senior PLO commanders, the officials of the Palestinian authority in Jericho, and all the members of civil defense forces, the central security forces, bodyguards, and others. The areas of their deployment have already been set out on maps, and the mode of cooperation among them has been defined as well. All that remains is for them to be permitted to enter the Gaza and Jericho areas to take over their total responsibility on the ground.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the agreement on protecting crossing points? Is it true that Israel will have complete control, while the Palestinians will merely be permitted to monitor from a distance inside rooms of their own?

[Yusuf] I don't think this is true. We will not consent to any such arrangements; we will have a permanent and effective presence. We will have many specialized tasks and duties, just like the Israelis, only more. In any case, we won't be able to say anything about this issue until after the final signature of the agreement and the natural conclusion of the matter through the actual deployment at the crossing points.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about the agreement on the weapons the Palestinian police will use?

[Yusuf] This question is linked to the first one. The Israelis say they will be light arms. We are asking to use the arms and equipment that any police force in the world would use, in order to enforce law and order in the areas subject to Palestinian control.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why was the dispatch of the first contingent of the Palestinian police force to Gaza and Jericho cancelled?

[Yusuf] The delay was not from our side, of course, but the Israelis are being asked about it. After we made all the preparations, at the last minute we were told of the postponement of the sending of the first batch, which should have preceded the greater number of police forces. The same is true of the team of Palestinian observers.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What will be the nature of the security cooperation between you and the Israeli security forces deployed in Gaza and Jericho to protect the Israeli settlements?

[Yusuf] There should be a supreme coordinating committee between the two sides to oversee this. But so far this committee has not been formed, and we have not been informed of the names of the Israeli participants. We are still waiting for a solution to major issues pending between us and the other side.

'Critic' of 'Arafat on Future of Palestinians

AU0205104994 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 2 May 94 p 150

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, "vehement critic of PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat," by an unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent; place and date not given: "We Will Be the Losers"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Is the signing of the autonomy agreement for Gaza and the region of Jericho the beginning of a more peaceful era in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Quite certainly not. The people here are tired, frustrated, and disappointed. In addition, because of the latest cordoning off of the occupied territories, they are ruined economically. We are looking into the future with anxious expectation.

[DER SPIEGEL] Where does this pessimism come from? After all, the Palestinians now have the opportunity to shape their lives themselves.

['Abd-al-Shafi] There is no reason for euphoria. Since the conclusion of the Oslo agreement, the PLO, Israel, and also the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, have succumbed to a collective self-deception. We must shake them awake: Open your eyes; this agreement will not make peace, because the most basic Palestinian demands remain unfulfilled—putting an end to Israel's illegal claim to the occupied territories.

[DER SPIEGEL] Instead of a lasting peace you see the agreement only as a short-lived cease-fire?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am afraid we will see a repetition of the past: a bloody confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] Even though the leader of the Palestinians, Yasir 'Arafat, supports the agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This makes it even worse. With his signature under the new agreement he only legitimizes the so-far illegal claim of the Israeli occupation power.

[DER SPIEGEL] But 'Arafat is praising the autonomy agreement as the first step toward a new Palestine.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Pure delusion. Already with the skeleton agreement the PLO leadership tacitly accepted the more than 140 Jewish settlements in Gaza and in the West Bank within the occupied territories as independent legal and administrative units—answerable only to the Israeli authorities. This is practically an annexation. There will be two kinds of law, just as during the colonial time—and this means specifically: An Israeli who steals a car in Gaza is put on trial in Tel Aviv.

[DER SPIEGEL] The agreement applies to only the five-year transition period for the time being, not to the final status of the occupied territories.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Nevertheless, the transition agreement is fateful, because, in the meantime, the Israelis continue building their settlements and establish new facts with that. Even the withdrawal of the Israeli Army is, in reality, only a transfer of the armed forces behind the fences of the settlements, where Israelis live like in territorial military villages.

[DER SPIEGEL] Not even 5,000 Israelis among almost 1 million Palestinians: In particular in Gaza it is already foreseeable that the settlers will not stay forever.

['Abd-al-Shafi] It may be that they will withdraw from Gaza and that they want to use the settlements there only as a point of negotiations in the discussions about contentious issues—such as the status of Jerusalem.

[DER SPIEGEL] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has already announced that he also wants to tear down settlements in return for peace.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Perhaps he will close one settlement or the other, because the financial expenditures is out of proportion to the military and strategic benefit. However, this does not mean any basic readiness to abolish the Jewish enclaves.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, time is working against the Palestinians. Can you afford at all to refuse the current offer of peace?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In view of the quarrels and infighting among us Palestinians, we will be the losers given if the Israelis present us with an independent state on a silver platter.

[DER SPIEGEL] You think that internal reforms of the PLO are more urgent than the peace package?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Regardless of the question of whether we are for or against the agreement, we must finally put the Palestinian house in order. We want to build a better future here.

[DER SPIEGEL] This is precisely what 'Arafat is saying.

['Abd-al-Shafi] But he is not doing anything for it. So far, at least, he has not committed himself to democratic rules.

[DER SPIEGEL] And this is how he will rule in Gaza and Jericho?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I hope that in the personnel decisions 'Arafat will not sacrifice the necessary competence to the various cliques or his personal preference. We will not permit such nepotism, the people wil rebel against him.

[DER SPIEGEL] Within months after the return of the PLO, the Palestinians are to vote on their leadership in free elections. Will you run against 'Arafat on your own ticket?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is too early to say that, but I do not want to rule out that I will be a candidate—either as an individual or on a ticket together with other independent politicians.

Hamas Takes Credit for Ganey Tal Attack

TA0205184694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Hamas today published a leaflet assuming responsibility for this morning's attack in Ganey Tal. The attack proves, the leaflet says, that any security measures Israel assumes will not protect the settlers.

Opposition Divided Over Hamas' Abu-Marzuq Remarks

JN0105121794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 2 May 94 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Damascus—AL-MAJD has learned that a sharp dispute has developed within the ranks of the alliance of the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process.

Informed Palestinian sources in Damascus say the old-new dispute between the Hamas movement and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has recently resurfaced following press statements last week attributed to Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chief of the Political Bureau of Hamas.

The sources say the 10 factions are divided over the statements, which Hamas quickly explained, dismissing the bulk of these statements in another statement issued by its bureau in the Syrian capital.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has largely supported the DFLP's criticism of Abu-Marzuq's statements, while the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has supported Hamas' recent explanation of the statements. Fatah-the Uprising, the al-Sa'iqah Organization, the Islamic Jihad Organization, and the Revolutionary Communist Party have exerted intensive efforts to contain this secondary dispute between the parties of the alliance of opposition factions and to refocus attention on the basic contradiction between the opposition's line and the approach of capitulation and its consequent destructive 'Arafatist agreements with the Zionist enemy.

PFLP-GC Responds to Mustafa Khamis' Split

JN0205141794 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 30 Apr-1 May 94 p 8

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], Jordan region, has issued a statement in which it responded to a previous statement issued by one of the fronts' leaders in Amman, Mustafa Khamis, announcing his split from the front. The front's statement says: We pity and feel deep sorrow for our brother and comrade, Mustafa, because of his recent psychological and nervous deterioration. Therefore, we attach no importance whatsoever to the contents of that statement, the whole issue is considered an idle talk and an object of mockery.

Despite this, the lengthy statement says that Khamis suffers from a superiority complex and psychological trouble, and that this was caused when he was arrested in 1967 by the Zionist enemy and was exposed, like other strugglers, to brutal torture, which he could not stand because of its fierceness and his weak metal state.

The front says that Khamis rejected the logic of financial rationing and accountability and insisted on improvised and secret accounts.

Concluding, the statement says that all this expresses an incoherent personality and deep changes in his awareness and behavior. The front's statement, however, asserts that brother Mustafa was one of the nationalists of whom the front was proud.

Correspondents Criticize Sha'th's Performance

JN2904122594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Apr 94

["News report by al-Quds radio correspondents"—read by announcer]

[Text] Nabil Sha'th [head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Cairo] is carrying the glad tidings of his determination to stay in the hall where capitulation negotiations are being held until his dream of reaching an agreement on the implementation of the so-called self-rule is achieved at the expense of our people and their objectives.

We realize Nabil Sha'th's need to expedite the achievement of his dream so that the doors will open to his political consultations and his trade companies for his sons and relatives so that they can enter the territories that have been forbidden to them and so that they can inherit the companies, institutions, calculators, and typewriters of the coming authority. But, we wanted Nabil Sha'th and his group to visit, instead, one of the

Zionist barriers that prevent our people from reaching the al-Aqsa Mosque to perform their prayers and from reaching the markets so that the defenseless citizens will be able to buy even some of their necessities and find some food for their children.

Our correspondents from the West Bank and Gaza Strip report: We wanted Nabil Sha'th to see al-Malha market, which was built by the Zionist enemy, so that he could see how the operation of stabbing two Zionist soldiers yesterday has shown the ineffectiveness of the Zionist siege on Jerusalem and its suburbs.

We wanted Sha'th to come to Ya'bad and Barta'ah to see how the soldiers of terrorist Rabin raid our people's homes and wreak havoc and destruction inside them. But, Sha'th insists on staying in Cairo. From there, he can emerge from his seclusion, which has lasted more than 24 hours, to stand in front of cameras and television screens and announce that an agreement has been reached, which he has announced dozens of times. He insists on staying in Cairo so that he can meet with Shulamit Aloni, the Zionist minister who has bragged in front of many Arabs that the doors of the entire world are now open to the Zionist entity.

Sha'th insists on seclusion until the signing of the agreement but, of course, he does not hesitate to receive the raven, the godfather [al-ghurab al-'arrab], Christopher, after his U.S.-Zionist administration granted the so-called self-rule policemen cars to be used to protect the Zionist settlers in Gaza and Jericho and to repress our people who stress their rejection of the accord of disgrace and treason.

What really counts is not seclusion but the continued heroic actions, like yesterday, which was known as the day of knife war.

As we wait for the results of the open session, until the 'Arafat-Zionist agreement is signed, and for the results of Christopher's tour of the region, Zionist terrorism against our people continues, far from the atmosphere of Sha'th's optimism. Moreover, land confiscation continues in order to open more settlement roads and to displace our people.

Within this context, terrorist (Gabriash 'Ahahl), the so-called security officer in the settlement council in Hebron, warned about another massacre similar to the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. It should also be noted that the head of the settlements council in Qiryat Arba' earlier made threats before the Zionist committee investigating the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre that a new massacre would be perpetrated in Hebron by a settler using a machine gun against the Arabs.

Our kinsfolk in Hebron, who are facing this Zionist threat with more patience and giving, refuted the military spokesman's claims that martyr al-Waridat tried to stab a Zionist soldier. Citing eyewitnesses, the Zionist newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST affirms that these claims are false. The paper notes that these claims are false and that the criminal soldier had been known to be carrying out repressive and barbaric acts against the citizens in Hebron for weeks.

At the end of their news report, our correspondents warned against Zionist deception in light of this game of distracting the attention of the Palestinians by preoccupying them with the issue of redeploying Rabin's soldiers in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. It has also been noted that the Zionists are taking advantage of certain gaps in our people's ranks, created by 'Arafat's supporters, in order to strike at their unity and undermine their efforts through secondary issues which, as everyone knows, are nothing more than a cheap Zionist bribe to the pro-'Arafat delegation in order to peddle the accord of treason.

Moreover, the our correspondents warned against these meetings that some Palestinian opposition members are holding with representatives of the Zionist Israeli military command, which is not seeking their opinion on the Muslims' position on the Oslo accord inasmuch as they are seeking to drive a wedged into the Palestinian ranks and to break their solidarity for refusing to deal with the Zionists.

Algeria

Prime Minister Lists Government Tasks, Priorities

LD0205102394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi gave a long interview to APS and AL-SHA'B newspaper in which he talked about the main facing his government. Here now are the main points of this interview, read by our colleague Ahmed Souq:

Regarding the main tasks as announced by the prime minister during his first statement in the post, that is, mainly, consolidation of the state's institutions, revival of the national economy, and the enhancement of national solidarity, Mr. Mokdad Sifi said in response to a question on the methods which he sees as necessary to achieve these goals: To boost the state's intitutions is to enable the personnel to shoulder their responsibilities; to take measures to free them from bureaucracy and the shackles and pressures of past tutelage; and to open the door for free expansion of initiatives in the field.

Work should be carried out to encourage and protect personnel, especially at the local level, either with regard to special laws or the financial aspect. To this end, the prime minister, added we have created of the post of a minister delegate in charge of local communities and administrative reforms. The municipalities are also a fundamental preoccupation of the government.

As for the revival of the national economy, the prime minister said that it is a paramount priority, and that we have the will and the necessary means to achieve this revival. What is important is that our workers, entrepreneurs, traders, and industrialists are able to achieve the required production level. We will work to gradually eliminate all the obstacles that are hampering productive economic activities, and we will encourage all initiatives. He added that there will be no room for speculation or the black market which has greatly harmed the country and its citizens. We will also considerably reduce the rate of unemployment.

Regarding national solidarity, and in addition to the economic measures that the government will take in favor of the socially deprived classes, the prime minister said that boosting this solidarity should take place not only through collective action but also within the family and inside the school. National action should become a part of civic action. He added that the State Secretariat for National Solidarity and the Family will coordinate with all appropriate circles to include the notion of national solidarity in the government's agenda.

During the interview with APS and AL-SHA'B, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi talked about several national issues. With regard to implementation of the agreement with the IMF and its impact on the national economy, the prime minister said that the program of stability that we have adopted will radically change the conditions of management of the economy. It goes without saying, as he put it, that there is a need for restructuring of the state's role within the overall framework of national economy. The private sector should be allocated an important position on condition that all economic operators, irrespective of their legal position, should adhere to the same market rules.

Notes Security Situation

LD0305005894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 May 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Regarding ways to tackle the security situation in the country, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said that the government was committed to adopt a firm method, as the head of state, Liamine Zeroual, recently declared in this respect. He added that an absolute priority had been given to the improvement of the security situation and the protection of people and property. The prime minister further said that the relentless efforts of the security forces, the improvement of living conditions for the citizens, the fight against unemployment, the protection of the workers' purchasing power, and the strengthening of the local authorities together constitute activities aimed at guaranteeing a better security situation.

On ways to bring the security situation under control, the prime minister believes that for the Algerians who are concerned about the country's future, who respect the constitution and the laws of the Republic, and who work for the nation's highest interest, dialogue seems natural and necessary, and allowing the expression of various viewpoints is a democratic act and is evidence of civilization, as the prime minister put it.

Released FIS Officials Express Hope for Islamic State

LD0205141794 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Athens, May 2, IRNA—Two recently released leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria have expressed hope that those who have usurped power will soon be removed and an Islamic state established in Algeria. "The people's wish shall bring back the power to their hands and it shall lead - God willing - to the isolation and downfall of those whose desire and hatred prevented an agreement with the people," said Abdul Qadir Boukhamkhem and Ali Jiddi in an interview with Arab weekly paper AL- MUSLIMUN. They pointed out that for the first time after the liberation of Algeria from French colonialism the country was on the verge of becoming an Islamic state when the military-backed regime robbed power by force and banned FIS.

"A group inimical to Islam, holding power behind the curtian, prevented the Islamic solution and oppressed the will of the people and opened the country to the French and western cultural and economic invasion," noted the two FIS leaders. They called for immediate release of all Islamic prisoners and the lifting of the ban on FIS.

Last month the head of the regime, Liamine Zeroual, replaced his prime minister Redha Malek with a technocrat, Mokdad Sifi seen as an attempt to pursue talks with FIS.

"The downfall of Malek gives some hope... if it was a real beginning to put an end to those calling for the destruction of Islam and Arabism," they told the newspaper published from Jeddah.

"The men of the Islamic Salvation Front do not lack the preparedness and the ability to contribute, as expected from them, for a just and legal reform in the country," they stressed. They revealed that communists and secularists in the ruling clique had created a "death squad" to carry out attacks and killings in the country to terrorize the people.

World Bank To Give 'Full' Financial Support to Reforms

LD2904185494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] In a statement published in Washington today, the World Bank has announced its full financial and technical support for the economic reforms program in Algeria. The statement pointed out that negotiations are still continuing over the intention to grant loans to Algeria of a value of $175 million within the framework of the second phase of the program of loans for the structural reform of the financial sector. .

Thirty 'Terrorists' Killed Since 30 Apr

LD0205202794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The security forces report that they have killed 30 terrorists and arrested 21 others in various parts of the country this week, beginning 30 April, in the fight against terrorism.

Armed Men Set Fire To Four Buses in Algiers

LD0305083694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Regarding recent terrorist acts, four buses were set on fire this morning at 0400 by an armed group in the center of the capital. The operation took place on the road linking Bouzareah and Bab El Oued when the armed men forced the drivers out and set the buses on fire. This act cost the Urban Transport Company in the capital the loss of about 1 billion centimes.

Egypt

Attackers of Prime Minister Executed 3 May

NC0305074794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0727 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Five defendants sentenced to death in connection with the assassination attempt on Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi were executed today. They are: Al-Sayyid Salah al- Sayyid Sulayman, 'Isam Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Tuni, Nur-al-Din Sulayman Muhammad 'Ali, Amin Isma'il Musaylihi Salim, and Tariq 'Abd-al-Nabi Hasan al-Fahl.

A military court on 17 March sentenced nine defendants in the case to death, four of them in absentia. Three other defendants were sentenced to 15 years at hard labor, one defendant to five years at hard labor, one defendant (fugitive) to three years, and one defendant (fugitive) was acquitted.

'Special' Unit Returns From Training in U.S.

JN0205135094 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 2 May 94 p 20

["Exclusive" report by AL-MUHARRIR correspondent in Washington]

[Text] A special Egyptian unit has returned to Cairo from the United States where it received training under the supervision of U.S. agencies on operations requiring more sophisticated training than could be provided by Egyptian security agencies. The units were trained at the expense of an oil-rich Arab country.

Competent U.S. quarters did not deny that the units' future tasks would include the execution of operations outside Egyptian boundaries for the United States or the state that has financed the units' training. It has been rumored here that among the expected or scheduled operations may be one or more in Sudan against the ruling Islamic Front and some of its leaders. The expected operations in Sudan will particularly target Usamah Bin-Ladin, who has been accused by foreign and certain Arab quarters of financing and leading extremist fundamentalist movements.

Usamah Bin-Ladin announced in Sudan that he has joined the Saudi opposition movement in London and that he supports its objectives. Bin-Ladin's announcement came in reaction to the Saudi authorities' withdrawal of his Saudi passport.

Western circles believe that part of the al-Shaykh religious family in Saudi Arabia supports and finances the opposition.

Egyptian Delegation Leaves for Amman Meeting

NC0105194094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—The Egyptian delegation participating in the Egyptian-Jordanian preparatory meetings to be held in Amman tomorrow left Cairo this evening to prepare the agenda of the Higher Joint Committee between the two countries scheduled to begin meeting on Wednesday under the Jordanian and Egyptian prime ministers. Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation affairs, will leave Cairo for Amman Tuesday to attend the final meeting of the preparatory committee, which will forward the minutes of the meeting to the Higher Committee.

Russian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo 3 May

NC0305113794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit to Egypt to attend the signing of the Palestinian self-rule agreement in Cairo tomorrow. He was met at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Visiting Rwandan Minister on War, Belgian Role

NC0105061294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Justin Mugenzi, Rwanda's minister of trade and industry and president of the Liberal Party, has said that his visit to Egypt is part of the consultations held by the government of Rwanda to stop the current massacres in the country.

At a news conference in Cairo today, he said he discussed the situation in Rwanda with President Husni Mubarak during their meeting today. He said he appealed to the president to use his influence and relations to end the war.

He also urged the international community to intervene to stop the fighting and persuade all sides to abandon arms so that the people of Rwanda can be convinced to halt the war. [passage omitted]

Mugenzi said his country has been in a state of war for four years, during which the number of refugees and displaced inside the country rose from 400,000 people to 1 million. With a population of 7 million people, there is one refugee for every seven people in Rwanda, he said. [passage omitted]

On the security situation in Rwanda, Mugenzi explained that the government is doing all it can to restore stability and calm to a country where people are dominated by a spirit of revenge. The government expresses regret for the victims of violence and is doing everything in its power to stop this bloody human tragedy, he said.

He said the conflict has gone beyond all rational boundaries, and the war has turned into a tribal and ethnic one. It is difficult to control a people willing to apply their own law of revenge and ones who are confident that their primary enemy is the Patriotic Front and its Tutsi tribes, he said. This is the reason for the violence in the country, he added.

He regretted and condemned the killings in his country and called on the people to demonstrate patience and leave the government to do its job.

On reports that the Belgian forces operating within the UN peace- keeping force are involved in Rwanda's incidents, Minister Mugenzi expressed his country's "anxiety" [ta'azzum] over the conduct of the Belgian forces. He said: Our relations with Belgium have until recently been extremely good. We do not blame the Belgian Government for the acts of some personnel, and we believe those are individual acts.

He said Rwanda is concerned about the conduct of the Belgian forces. Since they set foot in the capital Kigali, he said, they have been engaged in suspect acts with support from the Patriotic Front. We warned those forces against this conduct, and officials apologized for some incidents, he said.

He added: We clearly say that many members of these Belgian forces cooperate with the Patriotic Front. They were placed in strategic positions and several armed battles have taken place between them and the government forces in Rwanda, resulting in many victims.

He said his country demanded withdrawal of those forces, and the necessary measures for this withdrawal have already been taken. The forces reached the border and this is satisfactory, he said. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Urges UN To End Bosnia Massacres

NC3004151794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—His Eminence al-Azhar Grand Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq has appealed to the United Nations to adopt the necessary resolutions to stop the massacres Serbians are committing against the Muslim citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina and refrain from rewarding the aggressor on his actions.

In a statement he issued today, the al-Azhar shaykh called on Islamic governments and peoples to unite and back the efforts Egypt and some Islamic states are making at the United Nations to deter the treacherous aggression, return the lands the Serbs usurped to their Muslim owners, and lift the arms embargo so that the Bosnian people can defend themselves against an enemy equipped with the most modern mass destruction weapons taken from the former Yugoslavia and some other governments.

The al-Azhar grand shaykh expressed his pain and deep concern at the crimes being committed against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina; the desecration of sanctities; and the killing of old men, women and children. These crimes conflict with the UN charter, the Declaration of Human Rights, basic ethical values, and the human bonds that link the people of the earth together, the statement said.

Jad-al-Haqq remarked that it is regrettable that this unjustified aggression should involve Muslims, although they are entitled to live according to their creeds and canons that recognize others' right to live according to their own creed. Islam reiterates that "there will be no coercion in religion," [Koranic verse] he said.

Concluding his statement, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq prayed to Allah to guide mankind to the right course and preserve Muslim blood, land, and lives in Bosnia-Herzegovina and everywhere in the world.

AL-AHRAM Views Rabin's Moscow Visit, Ties With Russia

NC3004082594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says the purpose of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the Russian capital Moscow this week was to express Israel's wish to end practically a long-running estrangement with Russia, inheritor of the former Soviet Union. It adds that the visit also carries an implicit message, addressed to the Syrians and Palestinians in particular, that Israel can compete for their strategic ally if it wishes.

In Saturday's editorial, AL-AHRAM says during his visit Rabin convinced the Russians to agree to mediate with Syria on searching for missing Israelis from previous wars. In addition there are reports that Russian officials have promised Rabin that, for the time being, they will refrain from selling any advanced aircraft to Syria. The editorial, however, doubts that Russia will honor its promise because of its economic situation, which makes it willing to sell weapons to any buyer.

The paper expresses its belief that, despite several technical agreements signed between the two countries, there are factors that will limit the advancement of Russian-Israeli relations and their talks on cooperation in the armament sector.

AL-AHRAM notes that current Russian policy has revised its retreat from and strong stands against Arab causes that were adopted at the end of Gorbachev's term and right after the Soviet Union's collapse. Furthermore, the paper says, Israel has no major interest in having Russia participate forcefully in the region's peace process.

Mubarak Receives ROK Leader's Message

NC0205200794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a message from South Korean President Kim Yong-sam. Dr. Han Wan-sang, personal envoy of the South Korean president [name and title as received], gave the message to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during their meeting today.

Dr. Han Wan-sang said he and Minister Musa discussed developments in the Middle East and strenthening bilateral cooperation. He hopes current efforts will help bring peace to the region.

He remarked that it is a great honor for South Korea to attend the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which is the beginning of a solid peace, not only for the region, but for the entire world.

He added that it is high time to raise the level of diplomatic representation between South Korea and Egypt.

Musa Comments on Yemen, South Africa, Rwanda

NC0205142394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that resolving Yemen's problem depends on the two parties to the dispute and that Egypt is following the developments and doing what it can. Musa said: We hope the clashes will stop, as President Mubarak said. He called for putting an end to armed clashes in order to protect Yemeni unity from disintegration.

Commenting on the results of the elections in South Africa, Musa said the African National Congress had been favored and expected to win the majority of votes. He remarked that this is a giant step in South African history because, once the elections are over, the road will be open to putting an end once and for all to racial discrimination and apartheid, so they can embark on a new era of democracy and majority rule. Egypt is looking forward to the final results and the proclamation of the new system in South Africa, he said.

Touching on the situation in Rwanda, the foreign minister said the situation in Rwanda is very serious and requires collective African action. This is what President Mubarak emphasized in his messages and in his contacts with the United Nations and the OAU, because it is primarily an African responsibility. But it is also an international responsibility, Musa said.

Musa, North Somalians Discuss Reconciliation

NC0305071794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with leader of the North Somalia National Movement 'Abd-al- Rahman Nur and the delegation accompanying him currently visiting Cairo. Nur said that they discussed the situation, particularly in northern Somalia.

He said that the delegation is working for rapprochement between the north and south, despite the fact that there are elements that are calling for division. He noted that the delegation asked for the postponement of the reconciliation conference, which was scheduled to be held in Nairobi at the end of this month, to have sufficient time to explain the current situation in northern Somalia. He explained that all the factions that have been contacted have approved the postponement.

He affirmed that Egypt is playing an important role to achieve national reconciliation in view of its good relations with Somalia. Most factions have total confidence in the Egyptian role and hope that the Egyptian efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia will succeed.

Foreign Minister Musa reaffirmed Egypt's position on Somalia and emphasized the importance of achieving national reconciliation and a solution based on the Addis Ababa resolutions that will protect the interests of all parties.

Kuwaiti Charged With Aiding 'Extremists'

NC3004193394

[Editorial Report] Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic on 25 April publishes on pages 14 and 15 a 2,200-word investigative report by Wa'il al-Ibrashi under the headline: "Top Secret and Published for the First Time." "Arrest of a Kuwaiti in Cairo on Charges of Financing Terrorism, and Search for Saudi Arms Dealer." Under this banner headline, the writer says that on 1 April the State Security Investigations Department arrested a Kuwaiti called 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mujaybil in a furnished apartment and took him for questioning on charges of "financing terrorism and supporting the extremists." During his interrogation, al-Mujaybil said that he is a member of an officially registered Kuwaiti society called "the Society for the Revival of Islamic Heritage." This society is headed by Shaykh Khalid Sultan Bin-'Isa and is managed by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-'Atiqi. He said he came to Egypt a few days ago to extend some aid to a number of benevolent enterprises in Egypt.

Egyptian security sources, according to the writer, have denied the story that al-Mujaybil came to extend aid to benevolent enterprises, saying that he was arrested red-handed. He was arrested in Cairo after several days and not when he arrived. The investigation sources revealed that a member of an extremist group who was under surveillance and owns a printing press for printing and publishing religious books and leaflets was seen more than once meeting with the Kuwaiti 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mujaybil immediately after the latter's arrival in Cairo. When the security forces stormed the house of the printing press owner, they discovered a check for a large sum of money paid to him by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mujaybil, as well as large sums of foreign currency. Al-Mujaybil claimed under interrogation that he gave the check to the printing press owner to pay for printing a book because the cost in Egypt is less than any other place, and that his relationship to the man is purely professional. However, the security authorities were not convinced and the investigation is continuing.

Meanwhile, the writer continues, the security authorities in Egypt and in more than one Arab country—such as Algeria, Yemen, and Jordan—are looking for a Saudi arms dealer called Nasir Mashhur al- Ruwayli, classified as the "most dangerous arms and drug smuggler across Arab borders." He uses drug smuggling to conclude arms deals. He smuggles these arms to Arab countries where there is intensive extremist activity, particularly Egypt, Algeria, Yemen, and Jordan. The writer says that al-Ruwayli is wanted in Saudi Arabia and several other Arab countries.

Asyut Governor Declares Situation 'Stable'

NC3004115894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id has said that the situation in his Governorate is stable and that the public is cooperating sincerely and fruitfully with the authorities. Everyone is aware that we are all in the same boat and we have to bring it safely to shore, he stated.

The governor called on foreign media not to exaggerate what he describes as isolated incidents in Asyut.

Interviewed on "Good Morning, Egypt," a program carried on Cairo Channel 1 Television Network, al-Sa'id said that as of Wednesday [27 April] 73 repentant terrorists had surrendered to Asyut authorities.

The governor said that Asyut has several economic, social, and environmental problems, but "everyone is pitching in and we have come a long way this year toward resolving these problems."

Writer Criticizes Inaction on 'Terrorism'

NC3004191494 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 25 Apr 94 pp 8-9

[Article by 'Adil Hammudah: "The Government's Absence"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Terrorism, which disfigures Egypt's image, did not only expose the harshness and crudeness of the enemies of the country at home and abroad it also exposed the government's impotence, absence, and inability.

Terrorism has exposed the erosion of government bureaucracy, the accumulation of its mistakes, the conflicts of its members, and its failure to control its parties. Every official does what he likes. He is only concerned about himself and his position. As long as the danger is far away from him, others can go to hell. As long as he thinks that he will escape with his own skin, he does not mind if the flood engulfs everyone else.

The recently uncovered case proves that terrorists are acting freely, taking advantage of the government's absence. Arms and explosives depots surround the capital and the government is unaware. Underground prisons are built by the extremists in preparation for the kidnapping and imprisonment of hostages to be traded for their leaders in prison, and the government is unaware. Terrorists disguised as municipal workers dig 12 meters under Salah Salim Street in a sensitive area in preparation for filling a tunnel with explosives, and the government is unaware. Neither the Cairo governor nor the neighborhood leaders, the pertinent ministers, or the prime minister had any knowledge. Where were all these officials? Why haven't we brought them to account? Why hasn't any one of them submitted his resignation? What is the crime for which they should be brought to account if not this one—the crime of neglecting the security and safety of society. I think that this crime is equal to high treason. I am not exaggerating.

The government is busy levying money and inventing methods to collect fees and taxes. It is not concerned that the poor are becoming poorer, the wretched are becoming more wretched and miserable, and investment and commercial activity will come to a standstill. Increasing the fees and taxes beyond a certain point will lead to tax evasion, and eventually the revenue will decrease. Is making the people suffer one of the ministers' hobbies, even if the government loses some of the revenue it used to collect?

If poverty, unemployment, stagnation, and corruption are some of the factors that promote extremism, aren't we entitled to call on the attorney general to apply the terrorism law against the government and turn the Prosecution Office into a supreme military court?

If terrorism is the result of deviating religious thinking—as repentant terrorist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi said in his stunning television confessions—what has the government done to correct this deviation? Has it persuaded the al-Azhar scholars to stand with it? Has it discussed with them their hardline positions—not against terrorism, but against those who are confronting terrorism? Has the government been angered by the recent statement of the Islamic Research Institute, which accused the opponents of terrorism of being extremists and called on them to leave the arena to them, to the al-Azhar scholars? [passage omitted]

The enemies of terrorism are threatened by the bullets of extremism and the al-Azhar statements, and the government is doing nothing about it. [passage omitted]

Paper Welcomes Iraqi Decision on Kuwait

NC0105102894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 9

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "Baghdad's Recent Decision"]

[Text] If the intentions are sincere, and we hope that they are this time; if the pan-Arab interest is put above personal whims, ambitions, and interests; and if there is a real will to return to Arab legitimacy—and we are not saying international legitimacy—then Baghdad's recent decisions mean that fundamental changes have taken place and that the winds of reexamination have started. Arab responsibility makes it incumbent on all the parties to help close this painful chapter in Arab history.

Iraq has rescinded the decision making Kuwait its 19th governorate. Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said in a news conference that Iraq has decided to drop the decision it announced following his country's invasion of the State of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. He said that Iraq has officially informed the United Nations of this decision, adding that it was the Iraqi parliament that rescinded the decision and the Revolution Command Council that ratified it. At the same time, Iraq's parliament speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih stated that his country is prepared to discuss all pending issues with Kuwait in order to achieve stability between the two countries. He said that these issues could be discussed with a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation when it visits Baghdad to check the facts and information on the issue of Kuwaiti detainees in Iraq.

In the first comment on the decision, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo said that such Iraqi statements do not add anything new. He added that Iraq had already rescinded the annexation decision so as to conclude the cease fire and then presented to the Security Council a memorandum saying that the cancellation was made under "the pressure of circumstances" of the time. But Iraq's media and political articles later once again began to reiterate the story of the 19th governorate.

The ambassador explained that the way to solve this problem is for "Baghdad to recognize the Security Council and UN resolutions and the decisions of the borders demarcation committee whose establishment was approved by Iraq. These resolutions concern the borders, the prisoners, and compensations." The Kuwaiti ambassador called on the Iraqi side to deal with the prisoner issue through the International Committee of the Red Cross team that will be allowed to visit the prisons and detention camps.

In his comment on the proposal to send a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation or letting some parties undertake shuttle trips between Baghdad and Kuwait, he said that the Arab League secretary general has exerted great efforts in this regard and these trips will be futile without recognition of the international resolutions.

Many circles believe that the recent Iraqi moves fall within the context of Iraq's desire to end the international sanctions imposed on it. Major countries such as France, Russia, and China support such a move and Turkey is insisting on it by raising the issue of the losses resulting from stopping the flow of Iraqi oil through its territories.

These moves come against acts of blackmail and schemes led by the United States in the name of the United Nations. The monitoring of the situation in Iraq is used as an excuse for these acts. The United States has imposed a no-fly zone on northern Iraq on the pretext of protecting the Kurds in the north from the Iraqi regime's repression. This was done in accordance with a Western agreement concluded by the United States, Britain, and France outside the framework of the United Nations and the Security Council. In the meantime, we see that the Shiites in southern Iraq are subjected to the same sufferings but the United States has not provided them with the same measure of protection.

Is it not astonishing to see the United States volunteering, by exploiting the United Nations name, to protect Iraq's Kurds but ignoring the fierce battles and massacres being perpetrated by Turkey's armed forces against the Kurds on the Turkish-Iraqi border areas?

Is it not astonishing to see the U.S. President persisting in playing the role of the region's cop and ordering that air sorties continue on the pretext of protecting the Kurds even after the scandal of the downing of two UN planes over the no-fly zone in northern Iraq? One wonders about the true U.S. objectives toward Iraq. Are they really the implementation of the UN resolutions? Or are they the dismemberment of Iraq and the secession of the north from the south? Does the United States want to implement international legitimacy or to carve up Iraq and paralyze its economic, military, and human resources and capabilities?

Is the complete erasure of Iraq as a state a supreme Arab interest? In whose interest is this being done at a time when the United States is making the deal of the century with Israel involving the "F-15A1" aircraft which the U.S. military arsenal has never sold to any country in the world and whose use has been limited to the U.S. Army alone?

Does the Middle East peace from the U.S. point of view mean subjugating, starving, and humiliating the Iraqi people and exhausting their resources and at the same time arming Israel and enabling it to achieve complete economic hegemony over the Arab region in light of an overwhelming military domination?

The State of Kuwait—government, parliament, and people—has the right to doubt the credibility of the latest Iraqi decision and no one disputes this fact because they are still living the bitter and painful experience ever since the invasion day. Any ordinary Kuwaiti citizen has the right to wonder about the seriousness of the Iraqi offer, ask what the guarantees are, and even stress the demand for such guarantees. We will have ignored the feelings of an entire nation if we do not achieve for Kuwait all the guarantees it demands.

The whole Arab nation has the right to ask how long the imposition of the blockade on Iraq and the starvation and humiliation of the Iraqi people will continue. The Iraqi armed forces have withdrawn beyond the borders and the Security Council resolutions have been implemented to the full. Then how long will the United States continue to use the international organization as a tool to destroy the Iraqi people and land on the pretext of implementing international legitimacy resolutions? These same international legitimacy resolutions are being trampled in the Israeli-occupied territories and in Bosnia by the Serbs while the United States does not lift a finger.

The Arab League is now required to benefit from the opportunity provided by the recent Iraqi decision and all nationalist forces are required in these circumstances to move urgently toward Baghdad and Kuwait to transform the Iraqi decision into reality.

The Egyptian Solidarity Committee which groups all nationalist forces and personalities of all affiliations in Egypt has made a move and issued a comprehensive political statement emphasizing that Iraq's recent decision turns over a new page to regain Arab solidarity and assert Arab reconciliation that has become a pressing pan-Arab demand. The Iraqi decision removes an obstacle that had blocked Arab reconciliation based on respect for international legitimacy and national independence of all Arab countries. The decision is also an incentive for all nationalist forces, parties, and organizations to work to enhance Arab solidarity to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

The Arab nation is now facing a difficult test; to be or not to be, submit and kneel to the new theorists who adopt the false slogans of Rabin and Peres about the promised peace, or remain steadfast, achieve Arab solidarity, fight for unity, and prove that pan-Arab security is not a lie but rather an established fact and that it will continue to exist today, tomorrow, and forever.

Iraq's recent decision opens the doors for us to realize the dream of Arab solidarity and by a joint Arab solidarity we will achieve our desired Arab peace, a peace based on justice, liberation of all the land, and recovery of Jerusalem, not the peace of Rabin and his new incense carriers of some of the former left-wing figures who have gone astray.

Correspondent Sentenced to 1 Year Imprisonment

NC0105062494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—A military court has sentenced 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn, a journalist for

AL-SHA'B, mouthpiece of the opposition Labor Party, to one year in prison and fined him 500 pounds for publishing news related to the Armed Forces without prior permission.

The journalist can appeal for commutation or cancellation of the sentence or for a retrial. If the ruling is confirmed, a petition for a reconsideration of the sentence can be made to the military appeals office within 15 days from the date the convict is notified of the confirmation.

Official on Modification of Military Hardware

NC0105095694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—The Arab Industrialization Authority [AIA] factories have modified the Egyptian al-Hadaf [Arabic for "target"] aircraft used for training air defense units in shooting. The modification involves increasing their fuselage area and fitting them with lights [masha'il] so that they can be engaged by heat-sensitive rockets in addition to ground artillery.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Hamid Wasfi, chairman of the AIA Qadir Factory, which manufactures this aircraft, said the modification also involved increasing its load capacity and range for use in aerial photography.

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR today, he added that the name Qadir has been given to this new type of airplane, which flies at 180 km/hour, is equipped with a piston engine and remote control, and can be made airborne without a launching pad.

Engineer Wasfi said production of the light armored car Qadir will begin in July after the successful production of the first example of the vehicle. He noted that the car is fitted with armored steel and glass and can be equipped with a half-inch turret against personnel and concentrations [not further specified].

He said over 60 percent of the car is manufactured at the factory, that it is equipped with a 214-horsepower engine, and its maximum speed on a flat surface is 220 km/hour and 100 km on rough terrain. He added that Qadir car is designed for border guard duties, internal reconnaissance and security, and protection of VIP's, and that it can be used as a command room for radio communication units. He said the factory is capable of modifying normal passenger cars to bullet-proof vehicles for protection against weapons of up to 7.62 calibers [as received].

Pope Shanudah Rejects Copts' Minority Status

NC0105172194 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 25 Apr 94 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] In a special message addressed through AL-'ARABI, His Holiness Pope Shanudah has declared that he categorically rejects the use of the Egyptian Copts' name at a conference on minority rights. He said: We are Egyptians and part of the Egyptian people. We are not a minority, do not consider ourselves a minority, and do not like others to call us a minority. The terms majority and minority indicate discrimination and segregation. This does not befit the sons of a single homeland, especially in beloved Egypt. The pope was commenting on a conference of Egyptians and foreigners which is being sponsored by a publication house.

Meanwhile, [Egyptian writer] Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal has refused to attend the conference. He published an article explaining the reasons for not attending, saying that the Egyptian Copts are not a minority and it is wrong to view them from this standpoint. [passage omitted]

IMF Executive Director Arrives for Talks

NC0205211294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—IMF Executive Director Mr. Charles Enoch and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days to Egypt for talks with officials of the Central Bank and the Economy and International Cooperation Ministry.

The talks will deal with the stages of implementing the economic reform program. These talks are considered a continuation of the contacts between Egypt and the IMF and World Bank regarding the requirements for this program.

An Egyptian economic delegation led by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, recently held talks in Washington with World Bank officials on this issue. The bank officials endorsed the economic reform program Egypt is implementing.

Cabinet Approves Budget, Investment Plan

NC2904160394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] The cabinet last night approved the draft state budget for the fiscal year 1994-95 in preparation for submission to the People's Assembly. The total budget is 70.541 billion pounds. The cabinet also approved the draft investment plan for 1994-95, which is the third year of the current Five-Year Plan. The total investments will be about 35 billion pounds.

During its meeting under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, which continued until late last night, the cabinet reviewed the results of President Husni Mubarak's visits to Oman, China, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia. The cabinet adopted a number of recommendations for implementation of what was agreed upon between President Mubarak and the leaders of these states.

Minister: Nation Committed to Oil Production Quota

NC0205105594 Cairo MENA in English 0842 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 2 (MENA)—Egypt is committed to its oil production quota, amounting to 870,000 barrels per day, in spite of the increase of Egyptian oil reserves, Oil Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi said today.

In statements made today, he said that this Egyptian policy stems from its keenness on maintaining stability of world oil market.

Dr. al-Banbi predicted that crude oil prices would be markedly increased due to the increase of world consumption of oil during the previous months.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: Country Will 'Never' Recognize Israel

LD0205102794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2005 GMT 1 May 94

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tarhunah on 1 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Brothers, in another outburst of anger against the challenges of the forces of colonialism and hegemony to the Arab Libyan people and the Arab nation, and in another festival of defiance, the masses of Tarhunah today took to the streets to welcome the brother leader of the revolution and to fuse together in him. They strongly shouted that the voice of this free and sovereign people over its land is stronger than the embargo and the voice of the crusader war drums.

Amid the masses, the brother leader of the revolution delivered this speech:

Brothers, when the drums of confrontation beat, Tarhunah, which history knows very well, will not hesitate to stand in the front line to face challenge with challenge.

Brothers, at the moment in which the camp of enemies is trying to impose defeat on the Arab nation and trying to humiliate this great nation before the world, at this moment the masses of struggling Tarhunah come out to declare to the world that in this place humiliation cannot pass. From this place we challenge insolence and arrogance. From this place we declare the will of defiance; declare the will of confrontation; and declare our readiness to face up to the enemies unintimidated by their fleets, their forces, or their might. The will of the peoples is stronger than the armies of enemies and the aggressors. [passage omitted]

Tarhunah became the center of the resistance to Italy and the base of the counteroffensive against Italian colonialism.

Tarhunah became the strategic target for the colonialist operation in the Italian fascist ugly era. They moved their armies from Gharyan, from al-Aziziyah, and from Tajura in order to attack Tarhunah from all directions. [passage omitted]

After these villains took over the other resistance centers their aim and concern was to subjugate Tarhunah and bring it under control. [passage omitted] Today, brothers, history is repeating itself: the United States is raising the crusade banner, and the western Christian forces are allying themselves with it in a modern neo-crusade aimed at mosques, at burning the Koran once again, and at taking over Mecca and Medina, which are now considered as taken over de facto. Most regrettably, the decision of the Christian states, made at what is called the Security Council, has been implemented against holy Mecca. The strugglers, the Libyan revolutionaries, have been prevented from performing the pilgrimage because the decision of the Christian states—America, Britain, and France—has been carried out against Mecca. We are playing a part in another historic epic poem, and God wants to prescribe for us honor, glory, and martyrdom as He did for our fathers and ancestors.

We will be lucky brothers if we enter more modern battles against America, Britain, and France. Our dead will be in heaven and their dead in hell. We will gain glory and leave an honorable history for our children and grandchildren just as our fathers and ancestors left this shining history. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow and after tomorrow, brothers, history will curse America, Britain, France, and the Western Christian bloc and will glorify us. History will record sacrifice and glory for us and shame and disgrace for the states of arrogance.

Brothers, we are resurrecting our history anew because these hours are the hours of taking along provisions from the history of our fathers and forefathers who were not living in luxury or greedy.

Brothers, we are reviving our history, because these hours are hours where we get inspiration from the history of our fathers and ancestors who were not prodigal, rich, or greedy. [passage omitted]

The weapons of confrontation are industrialization, farming, knowledge, defiance, and austerity. These are the weapons with which we confront the enemy. We should have a full awareness of the new international politics meant to bring about a neo-colonial domination of Christian Europe over the Arab-Islamic world. They want to destroy mosques once again, they want to burn the Koran, Koran books once again, they want us to live as their subjects once again. Never! These evil objectives will never be realized; they will never be able to achieve what they want. Here are the aware masses, the free masses, the [word indistinct] masses that can instill life in the dead and lift the morale of the humiliated Arab nation.

We send our backing and support to the fighters of the Lebanese people who launch daring attacks and are unafraid of the threats of America, Britain, France, and Europe. So that despicable Zionism will understand, they launch daring attacks on the north of Palestine and we say to them that these attacks open the door for the great conquest, the liberation of the land from the south to the south [as heard]. These attacks must not stop, must not stop in southern Lebanon as far as the south of occupied Palestine.

O brothers, we will not be satisfied that the soil of Egypt and Jordan should be isolated from each other with the enemy dividing them, the enemy who is occupying Umm al-Rashrash which the Israelis called Elat. This is Egyptian land 100 percent. [passage omitted]

The Israeli occupation of Umm al-Rashrash prevented even pilgrims from going to Mecca in cars, on camels, or on foot. When pilgrims go from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, how will they get through? From which place will they get through? They cannot get through, O brothers, by land, because the land between Jordan and Egypt is occupied. Egyptian Umm al-Rashrash is occupied. It is a disgrace, O brothers, that Umm al-Rashrash should be occupied. It is a disgrace that the Arab homeland should be divided on land between Jordan and Egypt. The battle will be for the liberation of Umm al- Rashrash. The revolutionaries of Egypt, of Jordan, or the Arab Peninsula are faced with the task of the liberation of Umm al-Rashrash so that the Egyptian land may find itself in contact with the Jordanian land through Ummm al-Rashrash. This is the coming battle. The first battle toward which the Islamic world must move is the liberation of Umm al-Rashrash. Egyptian Umm al-Rashrash is an extremely important strategic area. It has divided the Arab homeland, broken the spine of the Arab nation, prevented the pilgrims of the Arab Maghreb from going to Mecca. You cannot pass from Egypt to Jordan because Umm al-Rashrash is occupied, brothers. This is not Palestine, not occupied Palestine. Egyptian Umm al-Rashrash is occupied.

When they ask Syria to recognize Israel in return for a withdrawal from the Golan, it is a great encroachment, a great humiliation, brothers. Syria has the right to recover the Golan Heights in acordance with the UN charter, without any condition. The Israelis must withdraw from the Golan without any condition or negotiations. The Golan is an occupied Syrian land. The UN charter says that land must not be taken by force. Why, brothers, are they trampling the UN charter underfoot? They are trampling international law underfoot and asking Syria to recognize Israel so as to humiliate it, to belittle it, to tarnish its history of struggle, and to humiliate the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party at pan-Arab and international levels. They want to humiliate the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. They want to inflict humiliation on the history of the 'Umayyids [dynasty of caliphs who had Damascus as capital] and the history of Khalid Ibn-al-Walid [Arab army commander who conquered Syria and the Levant]. [passage omitted]

Brothers, they want Libya to rcognize Israel so as to solve the problem of Lockerbie with her. To hell and 1,000 times to hell if that is the condition. Never and never, this condition will never be realized. Libya will fight until doomsday. Libya knows through her historic awareness and her rich history that the road to her security in the future, to which she is forging ahead, is fraught with sweat, blood, and sacrifices. However, it is the only road and there is no alternative to it to reach an honorable and free tomorrow.

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] O brothers, they lie and cheat, they say that Libya brought down the Pan Am plane and that this is the problem. So there they are behind the scenes saying ...[changes thought]... this is not the problem. The problem is that Libya is called upon to recognize Israel. Look at this injustice. They want us to recognize that white is black and that black is white. Why should we be forced into recognition? Death is easier than recognition, easier than recognition by injustice, by falsification. We do not recognize falsification. Palestine ...[changes thought]... the Palestinian people, Palestine is an occupied Arab territory. [passage omitted]

We support the Jews so that they live in their homelands and are respected, so that persecution is lifted on them, including the Jews from the Arab world. They must return to their countries and Palestine must be left to the Palestinians. We challenge them to return the Palestinian people to Palestine. We challenge them to carry out free elections with the Palestinian people's presence and under the supervision of the so-called United Nations, as is the case now in South Africa. We challenge them to show they want peace. We are the ones who call for this solution and we are the ones who want and love peace. When we are forced to fight, we will fight with fierceness and madness because we will be forced to fight, whereas they are cowards who look for fighting for prosperity and when the time of confrontation comes, they will run away like dogs just like Italy ran away from this place, this sacred place. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Urges 'Mountain' People To Return to Kordofan

EA0105180094 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 30 April (SUNA)—The president of the Republic of Sudan, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has called on the inhabitants of the Nubah Mountains, who fled and sought refuge in Khartoum and other parts of Sudan, to return to their villages and areas in south Kordofan, since the government has expelled the rebels and made the area secure.

President al-Bashir announced the government's commitment to transport and settle them in their areas, and to support them with agricultural equipment, seeds, and everything necessary for their agricultural activities. He said that the government will remain committed to providing them with food until their harvest is ready. He also announced that the government will extend health services, increase the supply of medicine, open schools, and provide teachers to the villages of those who return. President al-Bashir called on the citizens of the Nubah Mountains to rebuild their places of worship, in all their different denominations.

The president had earlier addressed tens of thousands of the inhabitants of the Nubah Mountains. They had gathered at the al- Hilal Stadium in Omdurman to express their support for and allegiance to President al-Bashir and his government for granting them a state of their own, within the framework of the federal system announced in Sudan.

Their new state is called South Kordofan, and like all the other newly established Sudanese states, it has a governor, a ministerial council for the administration of executive duties, and a mini- parliament to keep watch on the government and its performance, and to enforce the necessary laws.

The inhabitants of the Nubah Mountains, in their speech made at the meeting, paid tribute to the government of the national salvation. They declared their support for the revolution and its orientation, and said that they will reconstruct their areas and make them peaceful and productive. They also declared support for peace and the government's endeavors to establish peace. The Nubah Mountains were part of the state of Kordofan, which was subdivided into three states within the federal government framework: South Kordofan, which covers all the areas of the Nubah Mountains, North Kordofan, and West Kordofan.

Government Forms Committee To Revise Security Measures

EA0205112994 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 2 May 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers decided on the formation of a committee assigned for mapping out a detailed program to revise the security and safety measures; to secure the installations, individuals, and documents.

The committee will be chaired by the adviser at the presidency, Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih, with Minister of Interior Brig. 'Abd- al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, Minister of Cabinet Affairs Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, and state minister of labor and administrative reform, Dr. Majdhub al-Khalifa, as members.

The Council, in its Sunday meeting presided over by President Lieutenant General al-Bashir, directed immediate revision to the security and safety measures at various ministries, institutions, and units. [passage omitted]

Military Delegation Visits Syria, Discusses Cooperation

EA0205201894 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1605 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Damascus, 2 April (SUNA)—Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa 'Abd-al-Qadir Talas met Lt. Gen. Faruq Ali Muhammad, the Sudanese deputy chief of general staff, along with the delegation which is accompanying him in Syria. They discussed Sudanese-Syrian military relations and ways of developing them in the interests of the two fraternal countries.

Government, IMF Hold Talks on Relations, Debt

EA0205165494 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Khartoum, 1 May (SUNA)—Talks between Sudan and an IMF delegation, led by the director of the fund's Middle East department, which arrived in Khartoum last Friday [29 April], ended this afternoon.

Finance Minister Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad, in a statement to SUNA, said that the two-day talks discussed steps and proposals to normalize Sudanese relations with the IMF. He said that Sudan made proposals to the delegation which, if accepted, would probably result in the sending of another IMF mission around the end of this month. That delegation would discuss elements of an agreement on which the fund's governing council would base its report, concerning its dealings with Sudan, during its June meeting.

The minister described this round of the talks as fruitful, and said that agreement was reached on the delegation's proposals concerning dealings with Sudan, which would be conveyed to the governing council.

Sudan's delegation to this round of talks was headed by the finance minister. Today the delegation met Dr. Muhammad Khayr al- Zubayr, the minister of state for planning, and Dr. Sabir Muhammad al-Hasan, the governor of the Bank of Sudan.

The IMF had resolved to compel Sudan to a forced withdrawal from the organization last February, on grounds that it had not settled its debt, which amounts to half a billion dollars.

SPLM Official Interviewed on Various Issues

NC0105165894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 9

[Unsigned article from the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Daniel Akodi [name as transliterated], representative of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in the Middle East, has stressed that the congress that the SPLM recently held in south Sudan discussed 23 papers on the future situation in the south and what the SPLM should do about it. He noted that ad hoc committees have been formed to discuss these papers and work out their final views on how to administer the liberated areas in the south.

In an exclusive statement to the "Brothers," (Akodi) pointed out that the SPLM believes that since it controls large areas in southern Sudan, the al-Nubah mountains, and (al-Anqasta), it must increase its attention to the infrastructure in these areas. He said: As events developed, the SPLM thought that there was a need to establish a civil administration with organizations from the bottom to the top at the level of villages, groups of villages, and larger areas. A national council will supervise all these areas. At the same time, the SPLM seeks to marshal the masses in the south so that they can confront the challenges facing them. On the military level, agreement was reached to form a military council to formulate military strategy. These are the issues that were discussed at the SPLM congress. He added: We in the SPLM did not at all mean these measures to mean that we are seceding, as several Arab papers reported.

Regarding reports in the Sudanese regime's newspapers' that these measures were merely designed to cover up the SPLM's military defeats, Akodi said: Quite the contrary. The Sudanese Government did not score any important military victories during the dry season. The SPLM is now trying suicidal operations, having massed all its forces in the south in an attempt to tighten its control on the Nimule area, where pitched battles are raging. I believe that the ruling regime in Khartoum has completely failed to achieve any of its military goals, despite massing huge forces unprecedented in size since the civil war started in Sudan. This confirms that the regime's newspaper reports are false. The government forces failed to score any military victories. As a matter of fact, the SPLM has military resources to strike at the heart of the government forces. We are currently planning such moves.

Regarding the term "New Sudan," which appeared in the communique released by the SPLM congress and which makes the opposition in the north fear that the SPLM is splitting away from the grouping under a new name, Akodi said: We in the SPLM are concerned about the grouping; our relations with the opposition forces in the north are very good. All that we mean by "New Sudan" is a Sudan based on new foundations and new concepts that will guarantee personal freedom to the citizens regardless of religion, race, ethnic affiliation, sex, or color.

Akodi continued: We in the northern and southern opposition groups agree on all the basics. The movement, which has been fighting since the time of al-Numayri's, Siwar al-Dhahab, through the party government that involved Umma, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Sudanese People's Federal Party, has opted to join the alliance embracing these parties due to its firm belief that major northern parties have basically changed their position on the issue of southern Sudan. We all have a clear vision of how to build a secularist, democratic, united, new Sudan. We in the people's movement have no disputes or disagreements concerning the objectives of the National Democratic Grouping [NDG] in the north. There is full harmony among us and we have a clear collective vision of Sudan's future after the fall of the National Islamic Front [NIF].

Akodi added: It is absolutely wrong to view the measures the movement adopted recently as a step toward breaking away. The movement absolutely believes that if the NIS regime falls, all democratic powers in Sudan will sit together to plan the country's political future. When this happens, everybody will eventually agree on how to achieve peaceful coexistence between the north and south after 28 years of civil war.

Hence, he added, what the press said does not mean that the movement has drifted away from the basic principles of the NDG charters it signed.

Asked whether the SPLM is seeking military support from northern elements in the NDG, Akodi said: We believe that all the NDG factions should join efforts to overthrow the ruling regime. This does not necessarily mean that all northern groups must undertake military action within the ranks of the SPLM. We believe that these elements can undertake a massive media campaign and urge and mobilize the northern masses to speed up the overthrow of the NIS. This is what both the north and south have agreed on in the NDG.

As a military power, we do our duty in this connection. However, we do not object to northern military action if this is possible, even if it is on a small scale. This would give the southerners a big incentive to reaffirm their national affiliation.

Communist Party Leader on NDG Factions, Other Issues

NC0105180094 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 24 Apr 94 p 9

[Interview with al-Tijani al-Tayyib, secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party, SCP, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-WAFD] We would like to know your views on the differences the press reported recently among the factions of the National Democratic Grouping [NDG]?

[Al-Tijani] In fact we just had normal differences. We did not want them to be publicized by the press. We in the Sudanese Communist Party [SCP] have nothing to say to the press on the difference of views among the NDG factions. However, I am willing to explain some facts if you ask me about them.

[AL-WAFD] Ummah Party says that the NDG's higher coordination committee is controlled by the left and that it is not an effective democratic instrument that enlivens the opposition's and the NDG's performance.

[Al-Tijani] I believe that it is unthinkable to accuse the SCP of controlling the NDG's coordination committee, which includes representatives from Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], the legitimate command of the armed forces, Southern Sudan Political Association [SSPA], and the Sudanese National Party [SNP], in addition to other independent figures. Accusing the left or any other party of controlling the committee would be an underestimation of all these partisan bodies. All these parties are independent and control their own decisions; they make the decisions they believe serve their interests and views as well as the interests of the Sudanese people and the collective struggle to overthrow the National Islamic Front [NIS] regime. How then can we conceive of the left, represented by one party, the SCP, as controlling all the other parties that are represented in the coordination committee? The SCP does not have the necessary enormous funds, does not have many masses—as Ummah Party puts it—and does not have the military power. Hence, the allegation that it controls the committee is inconsistent with reality. The SCP cannot afford to dictate any decision to the legitimate leadership. The same thing applies to the DUP, the SPLM, and all the rest.

[AL-WAFD] Last week the Ummah Party put forward an integrated plan to restructure and reorganize the NDG and the coordination committee. What do you think of that plan?

[Al-Tijani] No one denies the need to structure the NDG. The issue has been under consideration since 1991 and it is being discussed at every single NDG meeting. The Ummah Party did not put forward any plans in this connection until last April, and their plan was not complete. However, we believe that this issue will not benefit the Sudanese struggle if it is published in the press. The public who read the press cannot alter the problem, unless they stage demonstrations in front of party headquarters. But that is impossible in view of the conditions Sudanese opposition activity experiences at present. Hence, it would have been better to discuss these issues among the parties to reach a final decision that all the parties concerned approve in a democratic manner.

As matter of fact, a committee that was formed in the NDG discussed a large number of proposals put forward by all political forces. The committee worked out recommendations and forwarded them to the NDG and the coordination committee to be decided on at the NDG's 5th congress. There is no disagreement on the need to restructure the NDG. We, as a Communist Party, put forward a plan to the coordination committee along with the plans submitted by the other parties. The fact that the coordination committee has failed to resolve this issue since September 1991 shows that this problem may be "lopsided"—that is, this structure may favor a certain policy. If there is no clear policy, it is difficult to imagine the structure. The election of the coordination committee chairman or secretary general, for example, and the formation of ad hoc committees should be preceded by outlines of the usefulness and political tasks of these new bodies. There should be an agreement among all parties on the policies that these bodies will follow. Conversely, the parties may decide to restructure the NDG first and then agree on the political tasks. This is no problem. What counts is that the structuring should be linked to the policies that the NDG is supposed to follow. We, as a Communist Party, have no objections to any restructuring of the NDG on which the parties agree. We make no conditions other than regarding the persons who will fill the posts.

[AL-WAFD] What do you mean by "conditions" about persons. Do you mean that you are opposed to certain persons?

[Al-Tijani] We are not opposed to certain names or persons, but we have legitimate questions about the "president" and the qualifications he must meet. I believe that we should reach an agreement in advance on the president or secretary general, whoever they may be.

[AL-WAFD] From the political point of view, how would you explain the reasons the Ummah Party raised the issue of "restructuring the NDG" at this time?

[Al-Tijani] We believe that this issue should not be discussed in the newspapers. The person who first raised this issue in the newspapers should bear the responsibility. I do not believe that any political forces anywhere in the world would broach such a sensitive and serious issue in the newspapers. We, as the Sudanese opposition, are members of one committee and one grouping. We all agree on the need to solve the issue of restructuring the NDG. I believe that raising the issue in the newspapers is not in the interest of the NDG nor will it help solve the issue of restructuring.

[AL-WAFD] Now that the SPLM has declared a "New Sudan" in the south, how does the Communist Party view the significance of this declaration? What about the SPLM's continued membership in the NDG, particularly since certain people interpret the declaration as being tantamount to the secession of southern Sudan?

[Al-Tijani] First, as far as we know, the SPLM is not a secessionist movement; its leader has stated more than once that his favorite option is a unified, democratic, secular Sudan. Garang has stated this stance more than once. I believe that Garang is not a separatist, but a unionist. Regarding the plan submitted at the SPLM congress, we have not yet received the text of that plan. However, we do know that the SPLM is in control of certain areas in southern Sudan. They want to run a civil administration in that area. This is their right and it does not mean a step toward secession. This is my view, according to the information I have so far received.

[Text] [AL-WAFD] In the light of all these changes, how do you view the future of the NDG? Will it overcome its crisis or will the Sudanese opposition embark on other organizational courses?

[Al-Tijani] The NDG was formed of parties and forces with their own differences. These differences come to the surface from time to time, but it was possible to resolve most of them during the past four years. We in the NDG have agreed on a formula not only to bring down the regime, but also to solve the chronic government crisis in Sudan on the basis of an agreement reached by all the Sudanese parties and forces. This agreement constitutes part of the NDG charter, its program, and resolutions. We think that the majority of the Sudanese people accept and support the NDG formula.

There is no doubt that we in the opposition will strengthen our unity and cohesion. The NDG will remain in the field as an instrument for the Sudanese opposition, whether some people agree or not. We are confident that the great majority of the NDG forces are satisfied with it and its representational capacity and are ready to work together to bring down the NIF. Whoever works for the good of the people will survive, but the scum will disappear. Mutual consent is the solution.

[AL-WAFD] Finally, do you think it would be useful to hold a meeting between the Communist Party and the Ummah Party to discuss their problems?

[AL-Tijani] We held regular, scheduled meetings with the Ummah Party less than a month ago. We discussed many of the issues of interest to the NDG and the whole country. If differences have emerged, they should not provoke insults. This is something that we do not approve of. Democracy recognizes differences of views. We respect the right of the Ummah Party to defend its views by democratic means. We also ask it in return to respect our views and not to insult us. We have not insulted anyone, but expressed our views. We may disagree, but we do not insult anyone. We express our views frankly and boldly, while at the same time expressing our readiness to meet half way with any force that we disagree with. We think that decisions in the NDG must be reached through mutual consent. The NDG was established on this basis. When the NDG was established, the parties in it had differences of views. Even the SPLM and the Ummah Party, which used to fight each other, are now in the same grouping. Differences do exist, and we cannot disregard them, nor can we resolve them over night. The only solution is for us to achieve mutual consent on all decisions we make for the good of the Sudanese people.

Kuwait

Deputies View Foreign Policy Toward Anti-Coalition States

LD0105132794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0942 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 May—Two political advisers at the National Assembly have agreed that the visit currently being paid to Arab Maghreb countries by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was a new and serious turning-point in Kuwait's foreign policy toward anti-coalition countries. [passage omitted]

Deputy 'Abdallah al-Shayiji said that the visit had the support of the National Assembly, which was consulted on the contents and aims of the visit—this would increase the chances of its success. He said that al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister would brief the Foreign Affairs Committee at the National Assembly at the end of his tour on the outcome of his talks with officials in the countries he had visited.

He added that the anti-coalition countries should not be dealt with in one way due to the variation in their stances from the early days of the Iraqi aggression until the subsequent liberation. These countries should be divided into categories and dealt with separately in a way that suited the amount of damage they have caused to the State of Kuwait.

Al-Shayiji said that those countries could be categorized as follows: A category that includes Arab Maghreb countries, a second category that includes Sudan, a third that includes Yemen, and a fourth category that includes the PLO and Jordan. He clarified that the first category was prepared at this stage for an intensive Kuwaiti move at all official, popular, academic, and media levels through delegations that would exchange visits between the two sides.

Deputy Dr. 'Abd al-Ridha al-'Asiri said that it was high time Kuwait reformulated the national target of its foreign policy and to look to the future from the nation's interest rather than emotions. He added that the foreign minister's visit was a change in tactics and not in strategy.

Dr. al-'Asiri called for a united stance by legislative and executive powers regarding Kuwait's foreign policy through dialogue and consultation between the government and the National Assembly before any step is taken in this regard.

Al-'Asir said that the success of the foreign minister's visit would depend on the Arab Maghreb countries support for all UN resolutions against Iraq, including the recognition of the new border demarcation between Iraq and Kuwait, and the return of POWs and detainees held in Iraqi prisons, and the recognition of international legitimacy.

Al-Shayiji said that the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Kuwaiti National Assembly was in the process of preparing a working paper on Kuwait's foreign policy for the next period, to be submitted to the National Assembly for discussion.

Reporters Refute CNN Report on 'Prisoners of Conscience'

LD2804205494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Statement issued by the Association of Kuwaiti Correspondents; date and place not given]

[Text] Quoting a report by the U.S. Overseas Press Club, the Cable News Network, CNN, has reported that there are 22 correspondents held in jail in Kuwait as prisoners of conscience. The Association of Kuwaiti Correspondents, which was astonished by such a report and its timing, especially as it was carried by a network that is particular about its sources and its information, would like to indicate that the information and figures contained in this report are totally false.

The association would also like to express its deep disappointment and indignation at the release of such reports on the State of Kuwait. Through this statement, the association would like to stress that there is not one single prisoner of conscience in Kuwait, and that the State of Kuwait is one of the few countries in the world where there are no prisoners of conscience.

The truth of the matter, and in order to correct the information, is that the report carried by CNN, which was quoting the U.S. Overseas Press Club, concerns those who collaborated with the authorities of the treacherous Iraqi enemy during its occupation of the State of Kuwait. Those collaborators took part in the publication of what was called AL-NIDA paper. This paper was the mouthpiece of the despotic Iraqi regime and it expressed its criminal and erroneous policies and harmed Kuwait's political and diplomatic standing during the period of the tyrannical occupation. Those collaborators, which were concerned by the totally false report, worked for the benefit of the Iraqi enemy occupying the land of Kuwait and carried out actions aimed at weakening the morale of the Kuwaiti people and their spirit of resistance by taking part in the publication of what was called AL-NIDA paper.

Those mentioned in that fabricated report are now in prison because they collaborated with the Iraqi enemy and not because of an opinion they wrote in the Kuwaiti press or because of a viewpoint they expressed in that press. It is worth noting that all those prisoners are craftsmen and technicians specialized in printing and maintenance of printing equipment, and that the majority hold Iraqi and Jordanian citizenships.

As is common knowledge, these people were tried by the Kuwaiti justice—which is renowned for its fairness—for collaborating with the Iraqi occupying enemy. Their trial was held in open sessions and in the presence of the international press, TV stations, news agencies, Red Cross delegates, and organizations concerned with human rights. The CNN correspondent was one of those attending those trials. All legal guarantees were offered to the prisoners concerned during their trial. Everyone witnessed the impartiality and fairness of those trials.

The Association of Kuwaiti Correspondents would like to reaffirm that there are no prisoners of conscience in the State of Kuwait and it wishes the CNN and the U.S. Overseas Press Club to check the accuracy of their information before reporting them. The Association is also totally prepared to cooperate to clarify any piece of information that any side would like to verify on the situation of journalists and the press in the State of Kuwait.

Central Bank Governor: No Plans To Devalue Dinar

LD3004121294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Apr—Kuwait's Central Bank Governor Shaykh Salim 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sabah ruled out in remarks published here today that the decrease in world oil prices would have a negative effect on the Kuwaiti dinar's exchange rate.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah told Al-Siyassah newspaper in an interview that the exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar was linked to a basket of currencies of Kuwait's principal companies dealing in trade and financial operations.

He clarified that the Kuwaiti dinar was unlikely to be affected by the decrease in oil prices. He said that it would not be devalued, especially if it was taken into consideration that its exchange rate mechanism suited the Kuwaiti economy, had proven to be effective in gradually lowering imported inflation, and maintained relatively stable exchange rates against major currencies.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said the strong performance of local companies during 1992 and 1993, and the remunerative profits which were distributed, helped maintain the stability of local shares and fought off pressures to push them down.

The Kuwaiti Central Bank governor said the decrease in the discount rate - which reflected increasing confidence in the stability of the overall monetary system - would bring local interest rates close to international levels.

He clarified that differences on interest rates on foreign currencies was in the interest of the Kuwaiti dinar.

In the interview, he indicated that a reduction in the interest rate of the dinar would help stimulate local economic activities.

Shaykh Salim mentioned that the Kuwaiti Central Bank would not obstruct local loans to banks but said that bank management had begun to review their lending policies to test their effectiveness. That was in harmony with the latest economic and financial developments where a policy of awareness and caution were being pursued.

Oman

Minister Views GCC Role, Iraq, Yemen, Other Issues

PM2904143094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p6

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Ghani] Some Arab states have criticized the fact that you have hosted a meeting of the Water Committee including an Israeli delegation for the first time in an Arab Gulf state. Some have accused you of trying to drag or persuade the Gulf states to normalize relations with Israel. What is your reaction to these charges?

[Bin-'Abdallah] That criticism did not come as a surprise to us. On the contrary, we see it as something natural and expected. We are aware of the phrases used in that criticism. We view it as a part of the serious thinking about the peace process. That criticism was made because of these states' interest in establishing peace. [passage omitted] As I said, we are not annoyed by such criticism which we believe is natural. It will not affect our relations, links, and absolute support for the other Arab states, especially Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians. We do so despite the fact that the press in these states criticized the presence of an Israeli delegation in Muscat as part of the international working team within the Water Committee. We do not have a complex about such criticism. I believe that the fraternal states adjacent to Israel have to say these things because their cricumstances and political positions on the peace process necessitate such statements by them.

['Abd-al-Ghani] You have held direct meetings with the Israeli delegation.... It has been claimed that Oman might start establishing bilateral relations with Israel gradually, say by exchanging delegations, particularly in the spheres of water and agriculture. Has an agreement to that effect been reached between you and Israel, and have you kept a channel of contact open?

[Bin-'Abdallah] The talks with the Israeli delegation did not go beyond the multilateral negotiations. We were crystal clear and meant to be so. In my interview with the Israeli press and television I stated very clearly that the Israeli leaders should not expect such steps by the Arab states before a comprehensive and lasting peace is established with the neighboring Arab states. I believe there is no room for confusion or misunderstanding at all. We explained clearly that neither Oman, the Arab Gulf states, nor any other Arab state would be willing to establish any kind of diplomatic contacts with Israel before the latter honors its commitments under the peace process and before withdrawal (from the occupied territories) and implementation of the Security Council resolutions agreed upon in the context of the peace process.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Oman got the Water Committee's approval for it to set up an international center for the development of water desalination technology. Will you permit the presence of Israeli experts in it or the use of Israeli research and technology in its activities before the political peace process through the bilateral committees is completed?

[Bin-'Abdallah] It is going to be an international water research center. All the Arab and other states in the Middle East will benefit from it. We do not expect results regarding that center in the immediate future. There are separate advanced research activities in the United States, Japan, Russia, and Western Europe. It has also been reported that there are advanced desalination researches in Israel and South Africa. I mean that the advanced industrial states have researches in this fields and we intend to benefit from all that and turn the theoretical part of them into applied technology. If there is some useful research in Israel then that would be a scientific issue and has nothing to do with politics, and we separate scientific issues from political issues. I believe that this matter will take some time and we expect the peace process to be completed before we can get these separate technologies. [passge omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] Are there any differences within the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] over the question of some states hosting meetings of multilateral committees with the participation of Israeli delegations?

[Bin-'Abdallah] I will not be saying anything new in this connection. It had been understood in the Madrid context that Israel wished the meetings to be held in the Middle East but the Arab states were not convinced. Then there was an understanding that the multilateral negotiations could be moved to the Middle East once practical steps were taken in the bilateral negotiations. It was not specified whether such steps should be taken collectively on all fronts or separately. When the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel was signed, that was seen as a positive step in the right direction in the direct negotiations...and it was seen as a pointer and as a step on the basis of which multilateral negotiations could be moved to the Middle East, and that is what happened. [passage omitted]

There are no differences on this matter but perhaps the willingness to host such conferences in the presence of an Israeli delegation within the committees differs from one state to another because of different circumstances and concepts but there is absolutely no disagreement within the GCC on the issue of hosting multilateral committees.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The question of your relations with Israel is linked to the vision of the region's future you once outlined, which was quoted by an Egyptian paper, to the effect that the Arabic language, Arabism, and the Arab system were finished and that the geographical reality which should be addressed was now the Middle East. Does this mean that you now seek abolition of the Arab regional system and institutions such as the Arab League and wish to replace them with a Middle Eastern system including non-Arab states such as Iran, Israel, and Turkey?

[Bin-'Abdallah] First of all, what the Egyptian paper AL-JUMHURIYAH published in the name of its editor did not quote me accurately. The Arabic language exists. It is the language of the Koran. Nobody can deny that, but what I said then was that our use of the Arabic language was not up to the ideal level, and if we maintain that the Arabic language is the leading ideological and political language then we use it better in order to be able to express ourselves clearly like the other now international languages. AL-JUMHURIYAH confused the Middle East concept with the Arabic language concept.

What I mean to say is that the Middle East concept does not negate the Arab concept. On the contrary, the Arabs own the Middle East but we should not appear to be racist, and Arab nationalism or Arabism should not appear to be a racist phenomenon. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] In other words, you are not calling for the abolition of the Arab League?

[Bin-'Abdallah] The Arab League is still the right institution for the Arabs. We all agree on that but it may not be able to fulfill Arab needs in the next century in view of the international groupings. Although we established the Arab League over 40 years ago, we have been unable to create common interests for the Arab League. The Arab league was originally formed for the liberation of Palestine. [passage omitted] Now that the Palestinian question and the Middle East conflict are on their way to a settlement in harmony with the new world, the Arab League should not remain within the confines of the past, otherwise it would be ineffective once the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict are resolved. The Arab League would be ineffective if it does not develop.

['Abd-al-Ghani] You have agreed to lift the indirect boycott of Israel at some levels. Have you in Oman actually begun abolishing the the second and third degree boycott measures? Do you believe that interests should replace pan-Arab links in the region and that your relations with Israel, for instance, should be on an equal level with your relations with the Arab states if the interests were the same?

[Bin-'Abdallah] First of all, interests should be the basis of relations between states, even between the Arab states, because common interests are the basis of the links between them.

Second, the issue of the second- and third-level boycott has no direct connection with Israel. These were measures taken by the Arab states to underscore their dissatisfaction with the way other states treated Israel. But the situation now is quite different. The Western states, the United States, and the industrial states in general have now passed legislation forbidding all industrial and commercial establishments from responding to the second and third Arab boycott levels. That means that if we maintain the second and third boycott levels against foreign companies which deal with Israel, we would be halting the wheel of development in our own countries. That would be highly detrimental to our countries. We are developing countries whose industrial progress depends primarily on the machines, equipment, and expertise we import from the major industrial states. So we have had to respond to the legislations introduced in these states.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Oman's position on the situation in the Gulf region is known, particularly the need to reconsider the position on Iraq. How do you now view Iraq's chances of getting approval for a gradual lifting of the sanctions imposed on it, particularly as it has complied with most UN resolutions and renounced its claims to Kuwait?

[Bin-'Abdallah] The lifting of the sanctions against Iraq falls within the jurisdiction of the Security Council and we know that the power there is in the hands of the permanent members. Lifting the sanctions requires a Security Council resolution. It is quite clear that the members are not prepared to lift the sanctions in one go before Iraq fully complies with all the resolutions and conditions of the Council. [passage omitted]

It is true that Iraq has indicated in one way or another recently that it no longer considers Kuwait to be a part of Iraq, but is that enough, politically? It may be important to understand that such statements are perhaps seen as politically insufficient to end the existing differences between the GCC states and Iraq. We believe that Iraq should do more. We do not wish to get into an argument as to which comes first, the cart or the horse.

Kuwait is an independent sovereign state with internationally recognized borders confirmed by the Security Council. These matters are not open to discussion or argument and cannot be questioned or reconsidered. Iraq should realize that its protection from the various dangers which they call "foreign plots" would depend on Arab support for Iraq. Such support appears to be nonexistent at present. Iraq should fully reconsider its Arab policies and its concept of inter-Arab relations. If it does that and if it commits itself to new policies toward the Gulf states and the other Arab states, Iraq would then be able to feel that the Arab states could provide it with the cover that might help it avert the so-called foreign plots. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] Some people believe that the Arab states have not done enough to prevent what appears to be "international tampering" with Iraq's unity. Do you in Oman have any worries regarding the Kurdish government in northern Iraq? Have you received or met with any Iraqi opposition delegations?

[Bin-'Abdallah] The first responsibility falls on the shoulders of Iraq and not the Arab states. That is why we say: If Iraq reassesses its Arab relations and policies in a manner that would make the Arabs trust these policies and not see them as just tactics, we believe that the Arab states would then become an element of strength in that respect. As regards the Kurdish issue, it is full of complications, and views on it differ. True, if northern Iraq is separate from the country, the matter would not stop there, it would continue, particularly as there are various minorities in the region, but nobody would feel happy about anything of that kind. Iraq's current circumstances, however, mean such matters are to be expected. If it did occur, it would not occur easily and would lead to new tragedies.

We in the GCC have, in every session, declared that we are against any violation of Iraq's unity and territorial integrity. That is a firm principle. As regards the Iraqi opposition, the firm principle in the general policy of the Sultanate of Oman is that we do not interfere in the internal affairs of others even if we disagree with them. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] There has been no improvement in Iranian-Gulf relations. That expectation for which you in Oman made great efforts, has not materialized. In fact, there may have been a deterioration since the islands crisis with the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

[Bin-'Abdallah] The GCC states and Iran always express a genuine desire to develop bilateral relations to levels that would be in their mutual interests. That is the constant policy. As regards differences between GCC states and Iran, that is normal. Differences do occur between neighboring states. What is important is the ability to prevent it from reaching the point of explosion. On all the disputed issues between the GCC states and Iran, there is a desire to settle them by peaceful means and at bilateral levels. So, there is no deterioration, but the agreement that every state should tackle its issues with Iran bilaterally perhaps gives the impression that there is no collective action.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Do Oman's decision to withdraw its members from the military committee in Yemen and your statement after the Salalah meeting between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid mean that the Sultanate is washing its hands of the attempts to resolve the Yemeni crisis? Will you support the Egyptian-UAE initiative?

[Bin-'Abdallah] It is not true that Oman has washed its hands of helping to resolve the Yemeni crisis. We have never said that. It was a press allegation. We ended our work in the military committee because that work was completed. That is a Yemeni committee which continues to exist but the work left for it to do is up to the Yemeni side. There is no longer a need for the presence of Oman and Jordanian officers. [passage omitted] We would support any Arab efforts by the brothers in Egypt, Oman, or any other country. What is important to us is that Yemen should remain united and stable. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Foreign Minister on Ties With Israel After Peace

TA0305090394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 3 May 94

[Report on "first ever" interview given to Israeli media with Foreign Minister al-Thani by unidentified correspondents in Doha on 3 May]

[Text] The Qatari foreign minister said today that he sees no problem with Qatar establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, but this must come after peace is established throughout the Middle East. He made the remark a few minutes ago in a conversation with Israeli reporters in Doha, upon the opening of the multinational talks on arms control. Our correspondent in Qatar Netan'el Semrik is on the telephone line from Qatar with the gist of the first-ever interview a Qatari foreign minister gave the Israeli media:

[Semrik] Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur al-Thani, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Qatari Emirate, smiled at the Israeli cameras and told the Israeli microphones that in principle he does not oppose visiting Israel. Everything depends on the pace of the progress of the talks on all the other tracks, he said.

[Begin recording] [Al-Thani, in English] Well, I cannot answer this question but if everything goes well in all the peace process on the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks, then I do not see there is any problem.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Would you like to invite the Israeli prime minister here to Qatar?

[Al-Thani, laughing, in English] Thank you very much. [end recording]

[Semrik] The minister said he cannot answer the question on whether he would like to visit Israel, but he has no problem in doing so, provided the talks on the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese tracks make proper progress.

Foreign Minister, Iraqi Ambassador Note 'Brotherly Ties'

JN2804195694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Doha, 28 Apr (INA)—Qatar's Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani today received Iraq's Ambassador to Qatar Anwar Sabri.

The meeting, attended by Shaykh Mish'al Bin-Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, addressed brotherly ties and regional developments.

Minister Receives Iraqi Information Ministry Official

JN2504150594 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Doha, Apr. 25, INA—Qatari Information Minister Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kawari received today Iraq's Information Under Secretary and Head of the Iraqi Delegation, Naji al-Hadithi.

During the meeting, the Qatari minister welcomed the Iraqi cultural delegation, saying the Arab culture is part and parcel, and its most prominent sources are the Iraqi culture and arts.

The Iraqi cultural week will certainly contribute to strengthening cultural ties between Iraq and Qatar, confirming his country's keenness to help succeed this cultural demonstration, Dr al-Kawari said.

For his part, the Iraqi official affirmed that this week was a message of love and solidarity from Iraq's men of letter to Qatar and an expression of solidarity and cooperation and good ties between the two sisterly countries.

He lauded efforts by the State of Qatar exerted to help succeed activities of the Iraqi cultural week.

Saudi Arabia

Minister Calls For Stronger UN Actions in Bosnia

LD2804210894 Riyadh SPA in English 1919 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] United Nations, April 28, SPA—Saudi Minister of State and cabinet member Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud told the United Nations Security Council Wednesday that the Kingdom has spared no efforts to support the cause of the Bosnian people and that the Saudi Government continues to extend political and moral support to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina out of its religious and historic responsibilities.

In an address to the Security Council Wednesday, Mas'ud said the Kingdom has extended financial and in kind support and relief aid including food and medical supplies to Bosnia since the crisis started.

He added that the Kingdom has also formed popular fund raising committees for Bosnia which resulted in more than sr [saudi riyals] 500-million (dlrs [dollars] 134 million) collections.

He indicated that the Kingdom has also extended medical treatment to several wounded Bosnians in Saudi hospitals.

On the political level, the custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz exerted intensive efforts with brothers and friends on all levels and in regional and international fora to have the international community take swift and effective measures to preserve the entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in line with a resolution by the OIC foreign ministers' sixth extraordinary session, which was held in Jeddah in December, 1993.

Mas'ud, who met yesterday with the Security Council president and U.N. secretary general as a member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) liason team assigned to follow up the developments of the Bosnian crisis, said this meeting comes at a time when the plight of Bosnian brothers is worsening as they suffer from a war of liquidation and ethnic cleansing launched by the Serbs more than two years ago.

He said tens of thousands of Bosnians have been killed or wounded and hundreds of thousands have been rendered homeless because of this horrible war, not to mention rapes committed under the noses of "your civilized world and the Security Council".

He said if the Council had taken strict measures against aggressors, the destruction burning and inhuman atrocities in the Bosnian enclave of Gorazde would have been avoided.

He added that Gorazde is still on the verge of a human disaster and pointed out that more than 700 people were killed and 2,000 wounded in this Bosnian town.

He said despite these plights, the Bosnian people continue their legitimate struggle against Serb aggression in defence of their lives.

"We look upon this heroic struggle with respect and reverence, and we pray for mercy on the souls of martyrs among Bosnian Moslems who fell in the field of honour and sacrificed their lives for their homeland and nation where they set the greatest example of sacrifice to preserve the dignity of the homeland," he said.

He stressed that the Bosnian problem has become an international one despite its seemingly European nature, and European countries and the United States should cooperate with the United Nations and the Security Council to put an end to the strife in the former Yugoslav republic in a way that guarantees the safety, unity and independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina on its national soil.

He said the international community is required to cooperate in implementing sanctions against Serbs for breaching the ceasefire several times and preventing relief aid from reaching their destinations and for destroying all aspects of human life in Bosnia.

He pointed out that out of their belief in the necessity of realizing international peace and security and in view of the deteriorating situation in Bosnia, the OIC members have held extraordinary meetings to discuss this issue and always confirmed the independence and sovereignty of the Republci of Bosnia- Herzegovina and called on the United Nations and the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities in this connection.

Security Council Resolution 913 coincided with this view when it reaffirmed the sovereignty and political independence of Bosnia- Herzegovina and strongly condemned Bosnian [as received] forces for their continued aggression against the "safe area" of Gorazde which led to a massacre of civilians and military personnel and caused a great deal of suufering.

As a result the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations called for lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia and the United States called on NATO to take necessary steps to enable Bosnian people to practice their legitimate right of self defence.

Mas'ud said despite numerous Serb pledges to halt military operation and remain committed to a truce and a political settlement of the problem, the Serbs always violate their international commitments and launch barbaric assaults on peaceful Bosnian people, which calls for a strict position by the international community to deter the aggressors and support the logic of force which is the only one that the Serbs understand.

The latter stage should be to hold a constructive dialogue to restore Bosnian rights.

"Therefore, we call on the Security Council to expedite playing its full part to restore things to normal in Bosnia-Herzegovina in a way that preserves its entity and sovereignty and restore stability to all Bosnian parts," he said.

He added that in case the Security Council fails to shoulder this responsibility, Bosnia should be exempted from the arms embargo imposed on the former Yugoslavia by Resolution 713.

Finally, Mas'ud expressed confidence that the Security Council would not be lax in endorsing the principle of international legitimacy and would seriously endeavour to shoulder its full responsibilities in accordance with the United Nations charter to support the credibility of the world body and realize international goals of security and stability.

The OIC liason team comprises OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamed Al-Ghabid, Mas'ud and representatives of OIC members: Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Turkey, Tunisia, and Senegal.

Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Arrives 30 Apr

LD3004131794 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Riyadh, April 30, SPA—The foreign minister of Kazakhstan, Kanat Saudabayev, arrived here today on a visit to Saudi Arabia.

He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and 'Abd al-Rahman al- Niwaysir, the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Paper on Coordination With Egypt, Regional Issues

LD2604133494 Riyadh SPA in English 1302 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Riyadh, April 26, SPA—The Saudi newspapers shed light today on a number of topics. Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH commenting on the talks held in Riyadh on Sunday evening between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, said these talks had come within the framework of existing coordination between the kingdom and Egypt. As the kingdom and Egypt constitute the most important pillars of joint Arab work, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Husni Mubarak are capable of playing an effective role in the service of the Arab cause, said the daily. The kingdom and Egypt have been exerting sincere efforts to contain the dangers facing the region, added the daily. The kingdom and Egypt, while working for tackling the peace process in the Middle East, are aware of the Israeli maneuvers to block the march of the peace, the daily pointed out.

For its part, Mecca-based AL-NADWAH said it has been clear that Israel is trying to escape from the pledges it had earlier made. This policy of procrastination will have an adverse impact on the future of the peace process in the Middle East, said the daily.

As we face the danger of the Zionist plots in the Middle East, the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina face the dangers of the plots hatched by the Serbs, added the daily.

It has become an essential matter for the international community to put an end for the maneuvers of the Serbs and Zionists in defiance to the international legitimacy, said the daily and added it has also become necessary to take the appropriate measures for enhancing the pillars of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and the Balkan region.

Amman Weekly Details Opposition's Activities

JN2604171994 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 26 Apr-2 May 94 p 18

[Unattributed "exclusive" report from London]

[Text] Observers recall the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights [CDLR], established by a group of Saudi religious scientists and thinkers months ago. The committee was widely highlighted by world media as the first of its kind in Saudi Arabia, which is ruled completely by the royal house of Sa'ud.

The Saudi regime did not receive the shock with much patience. The regime pursued members and supporters of the committee. It arrested many of them, dismissed many from their jobs, and prevented their travel abroad. The step came in the wake of two important developments: The first was the establishment of the much awaited Shura Council, which is appointed by the king and whose decisions are just recommendations to him, to take or leave as he pleases—indeed, it would be unimaginable for this council to deviate from the regime's directives—and the second was an operation to contain the opposition, which took London as its headquarters. Most of its leaders returned to the kingdom. The conditions for their return were regarded to be greatly in the interest of the Shiites. The Shiite opposition closed down their AL-JAZIRAH AL-'ARABIYAH magazine, which they issued from London. The government even bought the paper's archives at the exorbitant price of 200,000 pounds sterling, despite the little information they contained on the ruling family and its activities.

As a result, the Sunni opposition found itself under siege. A move was needed to stir the stagnant water. Therefore, the group which established the CDLR decided to follow in the footsteps of the Shiite opposition by working abroad. Therefore, the committee's spokesman, Dr. al-Mas'ari, left for London with a fake passport—his original passport was withheld by the regime. Dr. Sa'd al-Faqih traveled with him. Last week, the two men began their political activity after asking for political asylum in Britain.

The committee's opening statement explains the reason for their actions and the basis of their moves in the future.

The CDLR statement said the committee transferred its activities to London after every means of expression and reform in the kingdom become impossible. The statement also said: Repressive methods used against the reformists have increased and have included preventing their travel, expelling them from their jobs, and denying them the right to practice any work. They are being pursued, interrogated, detained, imprisoned, and tortured and are being threatened with death.

The statement appealed to Saudi nationals, those who support the removal of injustice and who would like truth and justice to prevail, to cooperate with it.

AL-SABIL has learned from sources close to al-Mas'ari that before his departure, the committee contacted all effective forces and figures in Saudi society to arrange matters. It won great support for this course of action. Al-Mas'ari's activities abroad are supposed to be coupled with great activity at home.

Al-Mas'ari enjoyed wide-scale coverage in Western media. It was learned that the Saudi government contacted London with a view to returning him to the kingdom or preventing his political work. However, the British government rejected the Saudi demand because it infringed on British laws. The Saudi government also pressured Dr. al-Faqih's family to force him to return, but al-Faqih said he would not return.

In light of the above, al-Mas'ari will be the Saudi opposition's vigilant eye abroad. He will convey what is happening in his home country to the media abroad. His presence will spur the opposition at home into action, especially when he establishes a magazine or a daily newspaper in the name of the opposition, which is expected soon.

New Administrative Divisions Established, Named

LD2804141394 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Following the statement made on 26 April by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, that the royal order had been promulgated on setting up governorates in all parts of the kingdom, the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY has asked his royal highness about the number of the governorates and their names. He said the following: In accordance with the royal order, it has been decided to set up 103 governorates in various parts of the kingdom including 43 [as heard] Band A governorates and 36 [as heard] Band B governorates. These are as follows:

Riyadh region:
Band A governorates: al-Dir'iyya, al-Kharj, al-Dawadimi, al- Majma'ah, al-Quway'iyah, Wadi al-Dawasir, (al-Iflaj), (al-Zuhlufah), Shaqra', (Hawtat Bani Tamim).
Band B governorates: 'Afif, al-Sulayyil, Dhurma, al-Muzahimiyah, Rumah, Thadiq, Huraymila, al-Hariq, al-Ghat.
Mecca region:
Band A: Jeddah, al-Ta'if, al-Qunfudah, al-Lith , Rabigh.
Band B: al-Jumum, (Khalis), (al-Kamil), al-Khurmah, (Runiyah), Turabah.
Medina region:
Band A: Yanbu', al-'Ula.
Band B: al-Mad, Badr, Khaybar, al-Hanakiyah.
Al-Qasim region:
Band A: 'Unayzah, al-Rass, al-Midhnab, al-Bukayriyah.
Band B: (al-Badayi'), al-Asyah, Nabhaniyah, 'Uyun al-Jiwa',
Riyad al-Khabra', al-Shamasiyah.
Eastern region:
Band A: al-Hasa, Hafar al-Batin, al-Jubayl, al-Qatif, al-Khubar.
Band B: al-Khafji, Ras Tanura, Abqaiq, al-Nu'ayriyah, Qaryat al- 'ulya.
'Asir region:
Band A: Khamis Mushayt, Bishah, al-Nimas, Mukaylah.
Band B: (Sarat 'ubaydah), Tathlith, Rijal Alma', (Ahad Rafidah), Dhahran al-Janub, (Balqarn), (al-Majardah).
Ha'il region:
Band A: Baq'a.
Band B: al-Ghazalah, (al-Shunan).
Tabuk region:
Band A: al-Wajh, Duba, Tayma'.
Band B: Umm Lajj, Haql.
Al-Bahah region:
Band A: Baljurshi, al-Mindak, al-Mikhwah.
Band B: al-'Aqiq, (Qulwah), (al-Qura).
Northern borders region:
Band A: Rafha'.
Band B: (Qurayf).
Al-Jawf region:
Band A: al-Qurayyat.
Band B: Dumat al-Jandal.
Jizan region:
Band A: Sabya, Abu-'Arish, Samitah.
Band B: (al-Harth), Damad, (al-Rith), Bishah, Farasan, (al- Da'ir), (Ahad al-Musarhah), (al-'Idabi), al-'Aridah, (al-Qiyas).
Najran region:
Band A: (Sharurah).
Band B: Habawnah, (Yadmah), Thar.

United Arab Emirates

Impact of Israel on Middle East Common Market Viewed

NC2904153094 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 29 Apr 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 29 (AFP)—The Arabs have nothing to fear from Israel in a common market for the Middle East, a Gulf study said Friday, as the PLO and Jewish state signed a landmark economic accord.

But the study by the al-Shariqah chamber of commerce and industry in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said the Arab League's 22 members must first integrate their economies before joining Israel and other countries in a single market.

Although Israel has built a relatively large export-oriented industrial base, its exports are equivalent to less than 10 percent of total Arab imports, said the study, published in the UAE daily Al-Khalij.

Israel's exports of consumer goods stood at between 11 and 12 billion dollars in 1992 while Arab imports of such products exceeded 40 billion dollars and their total imports have remained above 100 billion dollars.

Israel's exports of transport equipment stood at 900 million dollars in 1990 and those of electrical appliances at 1.6 billion dollars while Arab imports of such products stood at around 42.6 billion dollars, the study said.

"Trade is a key component of Israel's Gross Domestic Product, accounting for nearly 46 percent in 1991," it said. "But the figures on Israeli exports show that they will have little impact on the imports of Arab countries."

In Paris, Israel and the PLO signed a landmark economic agreement on Friday, as part of an overall accord to launch Palestinian self- rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who signed for Israel, urged Arab countries to "remove the walls of economic boycott" and lift the embargo in force since the Jewish state was created in 1948.

"None of us can afford economic boycotts," he warned, referring to stiff competition from other regions.

The al-Shariqah chamber of commerce study saw benefits for both Arabs and Israel from a common market although the latter would reap more gains given its superior industries.

A free trade zone in the region would give Israel access to new markets and enable it to ensure its needs in oil and other raw materials, according to the study.

In return, Arab states would find a new market for their oil and gas, but their exports of other goods would not rise greatly as the Israeli market is small.

The United States and other countries have proposed a regional common market encompassing Israel, the Arabs, Turkey and Iran, saying this would bring about prosperity and boost confidence in peace.

But several Arab officials and businessmen have warned such a project would allow Israel to dominate Arab economies.

Gulf Arab states are playing a key role in the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process. Oman hosted talks on water resources last week and Qatar will be the venue for a working session on arms control next week.

In an interview with AFP in Oman, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said a common market would benefit all parties but stressed the project needed long discussion.

"We believe that the realistic option for Arab states to brace for the Middle East market is to set up a free trade zone," the UAE study said.

"Another point is that Israel has a governmental, institutional, legal and administrative structure that is far superior to that in all Arab countries," it added.

"This should prompt our governments to consolidate democracy in their political and economic systems and revise their policies on education, training, planning and exploitation of resources."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in an interview published Friday in the Qatari newspaper Al-Sharq, criticized Arab states, saying they were "not up to the European standards of democracy."

Coastguard Wounded in Clash With Illegal Immigrant Boat

NC0105182294 Paris AFP in English 1745 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 1 (AFP)—A United Arab Emirates (UAE) coastguard was wounded in a clash when a boat bringing in illegal immigrants was intercepted in the Gulf, the official news agency WAM reported on Sunday.

Coastguards had to call in air force reinforcements when they came under fire from the boat on Friday off al-Sha'm, in the northern emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah, the agency quoted the Interior Ministry as saying.

"A clash took place between the coastguard patrol and the boat, but after an aircraft intervened the boat and all the people on board were seized," said acting border- and coastguard chief Salih al-Shalwah.

He did not say where the boat came from or identify those on board.

However, police records show most of the illegal immigrants captured over the past two decades came from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. They came in search of jobs in the oil-rich Gulf state.

Al-Shalwah gave no further details of the incident, but said the wounded soldier was taken to a Dubai hospital and his condition was satisfactory.

"It is not the first incident of its kind," a Ra's al-Khaymah coastguard official told AFP by telephone.

"There have been many cases involving clashes with infiltrators," he added, but refused to reveal the nationalities of those involved in Friday's incident.

Yemen

Al-Bid Agrees To Meet Salih, Other Party Leaders

JN0205181194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 2 May (INA)—'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, has welcomed an initiative by the parties to the dialogue committee from outside the ruling Yemeni coalition, who have called for a meeting among 'Ali Salim al-Bid, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and leaders of other parties to put an end to the worsening crisis and infighting in the country.

Al-Bid welcomed the initiative when he received members of the dialogue committee from outside the coalition today.

The Yemeni president has also agreed to the initiative, deeming it a positive beginning to end the crisis in the country.

Egyptian President's Envoy Comments, Departs 2 May

JN0205144594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Brother Ambassador Badr Hammam, Egypt's assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs and envoy of the Egyptian president, left Sanaa today following a working visit to our country that lasted several days. During the visit, Hammam delivered messages to Brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the Presidential Council vice chairman.

Before leaving Sanaa international airport, the Egyptian envoy made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', in which he stressed the need for wisdom and logic to overcome the political crisis that the Yemeni Republic is passing through at this important phase in the Arab nation's history.

He said: At this phase, in which Yemen is passing through hard times for both Yemen and every Yemeni, we wish Yemen peace and tranquility. We must all remember that the recent incident in 'Imran between the soldiers of the one homeland should not forces us to deviate from the path that we all started with democratic discussions to proceed toward the goal that is dear to every Yemeni and Arab; namely, the preservation of the homeland's unity and its people's cohesion.

Ambassador Badr Hammam also stressed the need to provide a calm and appropriate atmosphere to start serious and programmed action to implement the pledge and accord document. He said the document is the correct path to establishing the state of unity with its institutions and constitutional and executive agencies so that Yemen and its people can begin a new era of security and stability in the young Yemeni Republic, under which progress and the comprehensive social and economic development can be achieved.

Hammam was seen off by Brother Ibrahim al-Sa'idi, Foreign Ministry under secretary; a representative from the Presidential protocol department; and Brother 'Ata Harun, the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa.

YSP Reacts To 30 Apr Presidential Council Statement

EA0205193494 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 May 94

[Statement by unidentified Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, spokesman; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] We heard the statement made yesterday by the Presidential Council during its consultative meeting, a statement that can only be deemed as emanating from the council of the ruling military family, which contradicts its stand on unity, democracy, the building of the state, and the merger of the Armed Forces. Justifying the military aggression against the forces of the 3d Brigade in 'Imran, which began on 27 April and continued today, did not require this revolutionary statement, which proves to our people and the whole world that the speech by the president in Sab'in Square was clearly directed toward planning aggression and launching civil war, and was a hysterical declaration of war against everyone. The Presidential Council statement was issued to confirm this, by asserting that the 'Imran operation was to be a lesson to be taken note of by anyone with ambition.

The family's council has discarded its latest facade, revealing its intention to reject the plan to merge forces, which had been proposed by the defense minister four times over the past few years. The Army merger would prevent the officers of the al-Ahmar clan from continuing to dominate the Armed Forces, and would expose the corruption and smuggling caused by the looting of soldiers' pay and food, the threats and abuse of soldiers, the creation of thousands of nonexistent positions in every unit, and the gaining of control over most military supplies.

The merger would have provided the Armed Forces with professional capabilities, would have freed them from the circle of family and tribal loyalties, and would have turned them into a real shield to protect the homeland and its constitutional institutions. It would appear that the ultimate aim of rejecting the Armed Forces merger and returning their [word indistinct] was to isolate and direct blows against them, as happened in Abyan, Harf Sufyan and 'Imran. However, the heroic defensive efforts of the 3d Brigade in responding to the treacherous attack against it, and the foiling of successive attacks upon it, will make the gangs of the ruling military family pay a high price. At the end of the day they will suffer disgrace and utter defeat.

What makes one anxious concerning the council statement is what it says about democracy and the rule of law. The family tramples on this every day, and boasts of having come to power with its pistol and the property of others, so that there should never again be democracy. It arrived to where it is now through the blood of the leaders and heroes of Yemen, through internecine tribal strife, and by setting the country ablaze through a series of assassinations during the run up to the elections. It spent millions in government and private funds to corrupt and destroy the elections. It then set out to destroy the results of the elections and undermine the unity of the work of the constitutional institutions, while planning the assassinations of its members and cadres, so as to return to totalitarian presidential rule.

This is what it is attempting to restore by digging with its bloodied fingernails, so as to discard all talk of constitutional amendments and attempts to reform the regime. After state institutions readied themselves to take up their constitutional responsibilities, by establishing security, stability, and by providing the people with a decent standard of living, it poised itself to threaten the country's safety and independence. Today it is working to cripple national consensus and the pledge and accord document, which has received both national, Arab, and international support, and which had led everyone to hope that state institutions destroyed by the ruling military family would be put right. That family has destroyed everything in the country, so as to have the people, placed for years under an autocratic military regime and controlled by a partitionist oligarchy, returned unwillingly to such a system through chaos, destruction, and war, while entrenching in the minds of the people the idea that it was the family which had brought unity and democracy.

The ruling military family decided to slaughter democracy on its glorious anniversary, 27 April, when the president, in Sab'in Square, declared indiscriminate war on everyone, on the Yemeni Socialist Party—which he had achieved unity with through the dialogue commission—and on the parties and political forces of the nation. [passage omitted]

House of Representatives Briefed on Events

JN0205140794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives met this morning under its speaker, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. The session started with the House speaker and members reading al-Fatiha [the first chapter in Koran] for the souls of the martyrs of the 3d and 1st Armored Brigades.

The people's deputies then listened to the minutes of the previous session and approved it after stressing that it must include the statement issued by the House of Representatives' extraordinary session last Thursday [28 April] on the regrettable events in 'Imran. The House also heard a report from the House committee, which is made up of the Defense and Security Committee and certain House members, on the fact-finding mission concerning the fighting between the 1st and 3d Armored Brigades.

The report includes details of the committee's mission and field visits on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday [28 April to 1 May] and the program it set for its work. The committee exerted great efforts to investigate facts and reach the conclusions included in the report, drafting it in a very impartial manner without bias toward any party. The committee urged the House speaker and members to study carefully the information contained in the report, which was obtained from the various concerned parties so that the House can, on the basis of this information, take decisive measures against those who were responsible for agitating the sedition that resulted in the death of our brothers and sons from the 1st and 3d Armored Brigades, caused material damage—the destruction of most of the equipment and machinery in the camp, and terrorized innocent citizens.

The parliamentary committee's report was then presented for discussion by the people's deputies with the aim of reaching conclusions based on the information contained in the report. The House can thus reach its own conclusions on the events in 'Imran city, as well as the various aspects of the regrettable crisis, and create the necessary climate to bring all parties together to resolve the suffocating crisis and rescue the Yemeni people from its aftermath, including the exceptional price hikes and fratricide among the children of the same homeland.

The deputies also stressed the importance of the House assuming its national responsibilities in light of the constitutional clauses and bylaws to pool the parliament's efforts with all the national efforts and endeavors to resolve the crisis and put an end to its threats and establish the pillars of the united state of Yemen and preserve national unity.

The session was attended by Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Khalid Salman, minister of legal affairs and minister of House of Representatives affairs. The House will resume its sessions tomorrow, Tuesday, God willing.

Sanaa Source Accuses YSP of Hampering Unity

NC0205210294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1947 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 2 May (MENA)—An official source in Sanaa has accused the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] of undermining the passing of unitary laws, hampering the unification of state institutions, rejecting the integration of the armed forces into a single national institution, and not freeing its members from party hegemony and loyalty.

The source also accused the YSP of rejecting attempts to integrate the armed forces in order to achieve its own objective, which is to secede from the unitary state and return to party dictatorship over the six provinces in the south.

The source stressed that there is no use here for any force or individual that tramples on democracy and constitutional legitimacy.

Security Officer in Aden Shot, Wounded

NC0205200894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 2 May (MENA)—An official Interior Ministry source in Sanaa has stated that an officer from the Central Security branch in Aden was the target of an assassination attempt this morning.

The source said that Captain Salah al-Khayyat was hit by three bullets and taken to the hospital. He noted that the incident coincided with the imposition of a siege on the

Central Security camp in Aden which cut its supply of food, power, communications, and transportation.

The source said that the security authorities in Aden are responsibile for capturing the perpetrators and lifting the siege on the camp. He denounced what had happened, describing it as a criminal action, and drew attention to its serious effects on unity, democracy, and security.

YSP Denounces Former Minister's Remarks

PM2604100094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah: "Socialist Party Demands Army Withdrawal From Seven Governorates"]

[Excerpt] London—Authoritative Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] sources have attacked former Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani for announcing the number of incidents and and assassinations to which the YSP has been exposed over the past three years. They accused him of appointing himself policeman, prosecutor, and judge at the same time.

Al-Iryani said that the YSP and its cadres have been exposed to nine attempts only, and that the suspects are in jail. But the sources stress that the incidents exceed 152.

Elsewhere, YSP Information Center sources in Aden have said that YSP representatives on the military committee continue to insist on the party's position urging that the Armed Forces withdraw from the seven governorates (Lahij, Abyan, Shabwah, Ma'rib, Ta'izz, Ibb, and al-Bayda') and that all military units be moved out of these governorates, saying that there is no justification for a military presence in these areas, known in the past as the fringes between the two parts of Yemen, except in the areas which represent protection for the Republic of Yemen.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the sources denied that the YSP had demanded the withdrawal of what used to be known as the southern and northern forces to their positions before unity, contrary to what has been reported by some circles in the General People's Congress.

The YSP demanded that all armed forces, wherever they are, be treated equally in terms of food, clothes, and other necessities. [passage omitted]

House Approves Country's Membership to IAEA

JN2704073694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] During its session today, the House of Representatives reviewed the minutes from its last session. The House then resumed discussion about our country's membership to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in light of the report presented by the Public Services committee affiliated with the House and also in light of the detailed memorandum and clarifications of the governmental representative on this issue.

The House approved IAEA membership after receiving the required majority of votes. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Denies Reported Polish Arms Deal

PM2604131494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Apr 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Yemeni Foreign Ministry Denies Polish Arms Deal"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Yemeni Foreign Ministry has denied concluding "arms deals with Poland in favor of a party to the current crisis in Yemen." It also denied "any indication that the Foreign Ministry, represented by its minister, has any link with that." It is worth mentioning that this denial comes in response to an article supported by documents which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published last week.

The Foreign Ministry promised to publish a response supported by documents to back its position, in order to "prevent it from being pushed into the dispute which has been raging since the crisis erupted," and to ban its employees from exercising partisan activities during their work abroad. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Inaugurates Agricultural Fair, Notes U.S. Blockade

JN2604144694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan today inaugurated an Arab fair for agricultural and irrigation technology and agricultural and food industry. The five-day fair is organized by the Iraqi Agricultural Engineers Association at the Baghdad International Fair.

Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered a speech on the occasion. He said the contribution of the Arab brothers to this fair expresses their siding with their Iraqi brothers who are facing a brutal aggression, led by the United States, represented in the continuation of the unjust blockade, after the U.S. dreams to undermine Iraq through its savage military aggression vanished in thin air.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said the Arab fair for agricultural and irrigation technology and food and medicine industry has exceptional importance under the current circumstances. It is also an important step to thwart colonialist policies that use food as a weapon against nations. The participation of Arab and foreign companies specialized in all fields of agricultural production is a practical method to stand in the face of the forces of evil and aggression. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Addresses Arab Workers' Rally in Baghdad

JN3004150494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—The Arab workers' rally for solidarity with the workers and peoples of Iraq, Palestine, and the Libyan Jamahiriyah began here today under the slogan: "Arab Workers Take a Firm Position in the Trench of Great Iraq, Palestine, and the Libyan Jamahiriyah." The rally will last two days.

President Saddam Husayn's representative Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, delivered a speech in which he conveyed his excellency the president's appreciation of all Arab workers for their initiatives to defend Arab issues. [passage omitted]

He said the Arab nation is facing the most dangerous and the largest of aggressions, designed to liquidate the Palestine question and conspire against Iraq, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Yemen's unity, and Sudan's unity. This, he said, requires a distinguished militant move by the free and militant sons of the Arab nation to support the militant positions of these countries, which are bravely resisting and standing firmly against the aggressions and conspiracies of the enemies and their agents.

Ramadan stressed that pan-Arab responsibility requires us to stand by the nation and the right regardless of sacrifices, to do what is right for the coming generations, and to be loyal to all Arab values and divine messages. [passage omitted]

He praised the steadfastness of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's people in the face of the unjust blockade, as well as their refusal to bow to hostile designs. He hailed the great Somali victory over the U.S.-led foreign invasion forces, the strong Yemeni unity, and Sudan's steadfastness in the face of conspiracies targeting its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. [Passage omitted]

Unified National Congress Reviews Opposition Position

PM2904145094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Expanded Opposition Conference Reviews Position on Baghdad"]

[Excerpt] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Unified Iraqi National Congress held an expanded meeting to study the position on the Iraqi scene and review the position of Iraqi opposition organizations. Elsewhere, it has been announced in Baghdad that senior Iraqi officials have joined a new military and political organization called the "Saddamites Union" led by the Iraqi president's son 'Udayy.

The National Congress (the Iraqi opposition's main apparatus) held an expanded meeting in its headquarters in Salah al-Din, north Iraq, last Tuesday. A statement issued by the congress, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received, said that the meeting was attended by Mas'ud Barzani and Major General Hasan al-Naqib, members of the congress' presidential council, in addition to the chairman of the executive council and a number of its members and some members of the consultative constitutional council and the national society. The meeting discussed critical domestic conditions, ways of bringing about change, international developments affecting the Iraqi scene, and ways of toppling the dictatorial regime in Baghdad.

The congress' statement pointed out that the meeting condemned the regime's repressive practices, which have been stepped up recently in the center and the south. [passage omitted]

Foreign Diplomats Said Concerned About Security

LD0205121894 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—[Words indistinct] formed a "defence committee" aimed at foiling attacks by the Baghdad-based terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO), a weekly disclosed here Monday. The bi-lingual weekly 'KAYHAN HAVA'I' in its latest issue further wrote that the committee, in its first reaction to MKO attacks on foreigners in Iraq, has requested the

Iraqi government to provide more security to foreign diplomats based in that country.

"Over the past few months, foreign diplomatic missions in Iraq, including the Iranian Embassy, have complained about increasing terrorist attacks and the plunder of their property by the MKO," according to the weekly.

It referred to March 22 incident in which four shots were fired by MKO assailants at Djibouti's charge d'affaires in Iraq, stealing of an Iranian embassy vehicle a few days after the incident and December assassination of Caglar Yucel, the administrative attache of the Turkish Embassy saounding [as received] of a second man as examples of MKO attacks on foreign diplomatic missions in Iraq.

Press Reiterates Denunciation of 'Hostile' U.S. Stand

JN0205120794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers issued today reiterate their vehement denunciation of the hostile U.S. Administration position on Iraq and its disregard of the international community's will to lift the blockade on the Iraqi people.

The newspapers AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, and BABIL emphasize that the White House policy on Iraq indicates a clear ignorance of the logic of events, of the pillars of relations, and of interests as well as a disregard of both the U.S. interests and the exits to the U.S. markets.

In the "Standpoint" column, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, which expresses the views of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The picture at the Security Council is clear now. Only the United States opposes lifting the embargo when China, France, and Russia are making pressures to lift it. Britain acknowledged that Iraq is cooperating with the Security Council.

AL-THAWRAH recalls what Washington imposed on its allies as well as the U.S. issuance, in the Security Council's name, of unfair resolutions against Iraq. The paper adds that after Ekeus acknowledged before the Security Council that Iraq is cooperating with it, the United States stood against the international community's will, refused to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, and called for maintaining the blockade on Iraq.

The paper draws the U.S. Administration's attention to the fact that the international community is no longer capable of following the U.S. policy indefinitely. The world is aware that Iraq is a key player in the region and that it should be addressed with rationality, patience, and good intentions because any form of aggression or threats against Iraq are useless. The paper urges the United States to adopt a different policy toward Iraq; one that would take into account realities, peoples' interests, and the international community's will.

The newspaper BABIL says that the U.S. position is becoming more intransigent against Iraq at a time when the international circles are witnessing increased cries and positions denouncing the continued unfair economic blockade on Iraq. The paper adds: Some influential members of the Security Council and the United Nations support both the international law and the Security Council resolutions which Iraq committed itself to implement. The Iraqi commitment was acknowledged by the Special Commission entrusted with international inspection. Thus, the only explanation of the U.S. position is what we, in Iraq, knew from the very beginning, that is, this position is a hostile and conspiratorial one.

BABIL points out that with some signs appearing that many international community circles are stressing the need for the Security Council to fulfill its pledges to Iraq by issuing resolutions lifting the oil embargo on it, the U.S. Administration is no longer capable of using, as a pretext, the international laws and human rights. This administration has rancorously revealed its evil intentions about not fulfilling its obligations to Iraq.

BABIL emphasizes that U.S. Secretary of State Christopher could not endure this new state of affairs, so he visited the region to meet with agents and with the afraid and shivering ones and reassure them that the United States would always stand against Iraq and its people. The paper points to Christopher's article published in THE NEW YORK TIMES which contained a host of lies that even the ordinary man in the street can no longer believe. BABIL explains that this criminal U.S. position can only receive further denunciation from the good ones and conscientious people in the world.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH describes the Clinton administration's policy on Iraq as resembling someone who fights his own kinsfolk and stands against his people's interests. Pointing out that the repercussions and damage resulting from the blockade have extended outside Iraq and affected the interests of Turkey, Jordan, and many European states such as Germany, France, Spain, and Britain, the paper says that the blockade inflicted grave damage on the Americans themselves after it closed the doors to a market that used to import one-fifth of the U.S. rice production in addition to large quantities of grains, animal fodder, and other goods.

Discussing the large U.S. trade deficit with world states last year, which amounts to $115.8 billion, the paper says that the Clinton administration, under Zionist pressures and individual interests, deliberately closes the doors to Americans who wish to deal with Iraq, which has a tremendous ability to accommodate goods and services.

Comparing the size of U.S. trade with Iraq and other states, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that U.S. trade figures show that the overall imports of U.S. goods by Syria, Bahrain, Oman, and Jordan did not reach $1.5 billion and that Iraqi imports, during the period of peak transactions with the United States, exceeded this figure. Indicating that Iraq's imports of U.S. grains exceeded $1 billion in 1989 and in the preceding year, the paper says that, thanks to its huge ability to accommodate goods, Iraq alone can import U.S. commodities worth more than one-half of the U.S. exports to all Arab countries.

AL-JUMHURIYAH urges the Clinton administration to review its policy and deal with Iraq through a rational logic based on respecting sovereignty, abandoning both bigotry and hostility, and looking forward to balanced trade relations. The paper adds that there is still an opportunity for the White House administration if it is aware of both the regional situation and the U.S. interests in it.

ittees' To Monitor Market

JN0205201794 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Apr 94 p 8

["From the Heart" column by Ghazi al-'Ayyash: "The Internal Blockade"]

[Text] Having come to realize the true objectives of the external blockade imposed by the United States, Britain, and world Zionism on Iraq, Iraqi citizens are no longer greatly affected by this blockade. By their oppressive blockade, the United States and Britain cannot harm the Iraqi people more than they did through their unethical and inhuman practices, criminal aggression, and destruction of Iraq's economic, industrial, and health infrastructure. Moreover, the Iraqi people possess and will continue to possess an exceptional ability to hold firm, endure, and fight. This is because any comparison between losing their identity and freedom on the one hand, and holding on to patience and defiance to achieve the objectives for which they have offered great sacrifices on the other, will make them choose endless defiance and patience. Actually, what hurts and pains the Iraqi citizens are the practices of some of their fellow citizens and the painful internal blockade that they have been imposing. Driven by greed and a tendency to exploit others, these people have lost all principles and morals. This blockade is being exercised by people who once were penniless and are now rich, who once were hungry and now are overfed. These people will not be pardoned by their fellow citizens. He who creates his wealth and luxury from illegal money and at the expense of others' hunger and need will not enjoy his life, for it is wrong to believe that sources of wealth are inexhaustible and that one can do without others.

Certain people's practices against their fellow citizens have been exposed and their justifications found unacceptable. They are like spiders extending their webs to trap the citizens. Deep in their souls, which are dominated by greed and parasitism, there exists the same criminal instinct of the spider, which kills its own offspring.

Certain greengrocers and grocers have turned the highway pavement around Baghdad into a black market to avoid the prices fixed by the government. They have emptied the Baghdad markets of everything. Tomatoes, potatoes, beans, everything is piled up on the highway pavement. They are not piled up by peasants or owners of nearby farms, as some may think. Rather, they are carried from markets and groceries to occupy the highway pavement, where tomatoes are sold at 35 dinars instead of 20 dinare per kilo, potatoes sold at 75 dinars instead of 30, and peas at 15 dianrs instead of 10. The quantities of beans that appeared recently left cold storage plants only after their prices were raised. The price of anything with a fixed price has been deliberately raised. The price has also been raised for any material that citizens tend to buy as a substitute for the expensive meat. Had the potatoes stored in in cold storage plants been released, they would have met citizens needs for at least three months, and would have brought their prices even lower than the fixed price.

Committees, which would be called "emergency committees," should be set up and given extensive authorities to impose tough punitive measures against violators. Such committees would not only monitor markets or greengroceries, but also cold storage plants. Weekly inventories of the contents of such plants should be carried out. No materials needed by the market should be allowed to be hoarded there. Such committees should also be given the authority to take to account any peasants who, upon the instructions of greengrocers, delay the collection of their crops to raise their prices. Another type of committees should be set up to monitor the domestic commodities poured into the market. There should be a balance between the cost of each commodity and the price at which it is sold. This is because if it is left up the managements of factories to specify the prices, and in view of the continued, unjustified price hikes, the citizen will be only the victim. Setting up "emergency committees" relying on citizens' consciences and cooperation will have a great effect in deterring the hoarders of basic supplies and vegetables.

Paper Cites Kurdish Sources on U.S. Helicopters Downing

JN0205131794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Reliable sources in Iraq's Kurdistan have stated that the two U.S. helicopters, which were downed over northern Iraq last month, were carrying a team of experts from the Pentagon, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, and the Zionist Mosad.

Informed Kurdish sources informed the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH that among the people killed were five agent Kurdish elements known for their links to the Pentagon and the U.S. intelligence circles. They explained that the five dead Kurds were Salih Sa'id, a translator, born in 1962; 'Abd-al-Sattar 'Arab, born in 1969; Nadir Mikhu, born in 1964; Ghandi Husayn, born in 1968; and Ahmad Muhammad Sulayman, born in 1956. These elements were carrying extremely important reports which were to be discussed in a meeting in Salah al-Din, which was not convened due to the helicopters' downing.

The Kurdish sources asserted that the meeting in Salah al-Din was designed to expand the circle of conspiracy and discuss reports on proposals aimed at entrenching the separatist movement and detach Kurdistan from Iraq as part of the comprehensive fragmentation scheme prepared by U.S. and Zionist circles. The sources explained that many Mosad agents were present at the scene of the accident. A group was spotted, led by Marlin Bogos [name as received], who plays the role of coordinator, and Barbara Schell, political adviser to the forces of aggression in the Turkish base of Incerlik.

The newspaper sources revealed a U.S. report which was to be discussed during the Salah al-Din meeting. This report aims to entrench the United States in the region, loot the mineral resources in Iraq's Kurdistan, and transfer them to California under the supervision of scientists specialized in exploring uranium, gold, tin, and other minerals.

PUK Leader Denies Efforts To Resume Talks With Baghdad

PM2904145694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by 'Adnan Husayn in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] Your said recently that you had asked some European governments to supply the government of the Kurdish region with weapons so that it can defend itself and to help it to train local police and security forces. Is that the main aim of your current tour?

[Talabani] It is one of several aims. I discussed with the officials with whom I met all the issues related to Iraq, including the Kurdish issue. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] What was their response as regards armament and training of police and security forces?

[Talabani] They were understanding and sympathetic. In France in particular, the position was understanding and encouraging—which prompted me to be more optimistic.

[Husayn] And how do you think Turkey will react to your armament?

[Talabani] I do not know exactly. I believe it will not agree.

[Husayn] And Iran?

[Talabani] It will strongly oppose it. It will consider it an imperialist Zionist conspiracy...through to the descriptions the Iranian press is so good at when it comes to making up lies and fabrications about anything to which it is opposed. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] The war between the Turkish Government and the Kurdish Workers' Party has intensified in recent months, and Turkish forces do not hesitate to carry out operations inside Iraqi Kurdistan. You opposed that, but what have you done to prevent it?

[Talabani] We have made great efforts with the two parties to prevent the fighting from being moved to our areas. We asked the Kurdish Workers' Party to operate away from our areas, and we asked Turkey to leave to us the task of guarding and protecting the border on the Iraqi side. But the two sides have taken account of that and continue to violate the sanctity of Iraqi territory. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] There are reports that the Iraqi Government is seeking to resume negotiations with you over self-rule, that it has expressed willingness even to accept the federal formula proposed by you, and that France and Turkey tried to mediate between you. Is there any possibility of resuming the negotiations?

[Talabani] First of all I would like to stress that neither France nor Turkey has spoken with us in this connection, either directly or indirectly. All that has been said in this connection is baseless. The essence of our current position is that the Kurdish movement and the Kurdish people in Iraq have an elected parliament and a government. And that this movement and this people are part of the Iraqi opposition movement. Any dialogue or negotiations with the government must be decided by the two councils representing the Iraqi opposition and the Kurdish people. I mean the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress and the national assembly (parliament) of the Kurdistan region. I personally believe that there is no hope or benefit from a dialogue with the Saddam regime, with which we tried dialogue and negotiations in the past and even recently. As is known, I have since 1963 led and participated in negotiations with successive Iraqi governments. After all this time, I have reached a firm conviction, namely that there can be no solution to any of Iraq's numerous problems—including the Kurdish problem—without the establishment of a democratic system in Baghdad. The Saddam regime in particular does not want a solution to these problems, so "whoever tries it will regret it."

PUK Leader on Discussions for Arms Supplies

PM2804144494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Talabani Discusses Supply of Arms to Kurds in Europe"]

[Excerpts] London—Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has revealed that he discussed with the European officials he met with on his current tour the possibility of providing arms for the Iraqi Kurds. He said that the results of his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand were "excellent." [passge ommitted]

He said that the talks at the Elysee and with Defense Minister Leotard covered "the possibility of France training security and police forces of the Kurdish region for the protection of the inhabitants and foreigners living there," most of whom work for relief organizations. He added that "the reply was positive and Paris promised to study the matter, along the same lines as the Palestinian police forces" which will go to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area and which receive international aid within the framework of the autonomy agreement. [passage omitted]

He said that he discussed with the European officials "the possibility of getting defensive weapons" and the exemption of northern Iraq from the military embargo imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait. He added that the training of Kurdish police was one of the topics he discussed in Germany. He stressed that Bonn is "showing special interest in the Kurdish issue" in general and is preparing an initiative for the settlement of the Kurdish problem in Turkey "in the context of a political solution that would safeguard that country's unity." [passage omitted]

On the rumors about a Turkish mediation between Baghdad and the Iraqi Kurds, Talabani said: "We have not been officially informed of Ankara's position." He added that he believes that Ankara wishes to normalize relations with Baghdad. Asked about the recent agreement between the two countries for the repair of the oil pipelines extending from Karkuk in northern Iraq to the Turkish coast, he replied: "Resumption of the export of Iraqi oil via Turkey would depend on a UN resolution (lifting the embargo) and also on a decision by the government of the region of Kurdistan." He pointed out that a part of the pipeline passes through the territory under the Kurdistan Front's control "and, therefore, a share of the royalties from that oil should go to the Kurdish people to be spent on administration, development, and payment of salaries" in northern Iraq." [passage omitted]

'30-State Aggression' Cluster Bomb Kills 2 Shepherds

JN3004134294 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tikrit, Apr.30, INA—An explosion of a cluster bomb dropped by warplanes during the 30-state aggression on Iraq in 1991, led to the martyrdom of two youths in the central Iraqi province of Salahuddin.

The director of the province civil defence said the explosion took place last Thursday [28 April] and that the victims were two 16 and 17 years old brothers who were grazing their sheep in the area.

Governorates Begin Manual, Mechanized Wheat, Barley Harvest

JN2804175994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Governorates (by AL-THAWRAH correspondents)—The wheat and barley harvest for this season has begun in several governorates in the country. Various centers have been prepared and provided with all the necessary requirements to receive the crops.

In al-Basrah Governorate, the manual harvest of wheat and barley began in Saddamiyah, al-Qurnah, al-Nashwah, al-Dayr, and Shatt al- 'Arab. Latif Mahal Humud, governor of al-Basrah and chairman of the governorate's Higher Harvest and Marketing Committee, told AL-THAWRAH that those concerned with following up the affairs of the blessed campaign began early last Saturday [16 April] morning to supervise the manual harvest operations.

In Dhi Qar Governorate, the manual wheat and barley harvest has begun and the mechanized harvest of the two crops will begin on 15 April. This was announced by Salah 'Abbud Mahmud, governor of Dhi Qar and chairman of the committee supervising the harvest campaign in the governorate, during an expanded meeting of the agricultural committees and several peasants and farmers. The number of available harvesters and other agricultural tools in the administrative units has been checked, fuel has been secured, the officials who will supervise the campaign have been appointed, the prices of the yield per donum have been fixed, and peasants and farmers have been given the necessary instructions.

In Maysan, the manual and mechanical harvest of wheat and barley has begun with the help of 157 harvesters. The engineer director of the Maysan Agricultural Department said the department has formed central, branch, and field committees to follow up implementation of the campaign, the bases have been drawn up for ensuring alternatives to harvesters and other machinery, and the governorate has prepared five centers in the governorate's cities, districts and subdistricts to receive the crops.

In Babil, early preparations have been made to begin the general national campaign for the wheat and barley harvest. 'Ali Hassun, president of the governorate's federation of cooperative societies, said 105 harvesters have been assigned to help in the campaign, saying the mechanical harvest will begin on 1 May. He said technical committees have been formed to supervise the progress of the campaign and to market the crops directly at the main centers which are distributed throughout the governorate.

In Wasit Governorate, Governor Tahir Jalil Habbush, chairman of the Higher Harvest and Marketing Committee, supervised the manual harvest of wheat and barley which began on 15 April with the help of 400 harvesters [as published]. The governor affirmed during his meeting with the peasants and farmers and the field followup committees the importance of exerting maximum efforts for the success of the campaign which, he said, enjoys the support and direct attention of leader President Saddam Husayn, and the need to avoid losses as much as possible in order to ensure food for the people and to foil the plot of the unjust blockade.

Rabin Warns of Dangers of Ruling Another Nation

TA0205170394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 2 May 94

[Report on a speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Labor party caucus by Yo'el Nir in Jerusalem on 2 May—recorded]

[Text] [Nir] Before his session with the Labor caucus, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told reporters that he does not give a damn about the opposition. They do not have to come up with answers, therefore they engage in demagoguery, Rabin said.

In the meeting, however, Rabin indirectly addressed himself to the charges against his policy made also by members of his own party. He used very stern language against them and was very determined when he spoke about what can be called the ideology behind his policy, even if some charge that his policy does not have an ideology. We do not want to rule another nation, he said. I want a Palestinian entity which is less than a state, but separate from us. We pay with blood for our ruling over another nation which does not want our rule.

[Rabin] I want a separate Palestinian entity to be set up. I do not want them inside the State of Israel. Our rule over another nation has corrupted us. Look at our economy and its dependence on them. We must for once take a risk for a change in order to free ourselves from this.

[Nir] Our great victory in the War of Independence was the establishment of a single-nation state. Annexing the territories would mean a binational state. The problem, however, is not the territories. Had the territories been empty of people, I would have no argument with anyone regarding greater Israel, Rabin said. Answering a question by Avigdor Qahalani regarding the Jewish settlement in the territories, mainly in the Jordan Rift Valley and on the Golan, Rabin said:

[Rabin] The settlements are today of marginal security value. The problem is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The only one which provides Israel with security is the IDF. I am furious today because I have to employ a standing paratroop regiment in the heart of Hebron, to protect 415 Jews, instead of using it in the war against terrorism. I have troops pinned down in the protection of settlements today instead of having them fighting terror.

[Nir] Regarding Syria, Rabin said that today it is the only strategic threat against Israel, though a moderate one. Peace with Syria is essential, Rabin said, but not at any price.

[Rabin] Let me ask you: I know that some day I will not be prime minister; I know what political stalemate can breed. I would not like to see in the future a strategic axis of Damascus, Baghdad, and Tehran—not in two years, but perhaps in five or seven years. I am not saying that stalemate immediately means war, but I know what stalemate does breed.

[Nir] The prime minister reiterated the motto of this evening's address: The price of ruling over a foreign nation.

[Rabin] What can we do? Peace cannot be forced on anyone. One can decide: I want to stay here as an occupying ruler. I am telling you, the price we pay with blood is the result of our control over a foreign nation. The time has come for this to be said. If the public wants to control another nation, it must be told that we will pay with blood for this. It is not a matter of this or another government; it is a question of policy. I am telling you: The IDF is being stretched to its limits, mainly the regular army, and is making efforts to protect both the population in the territories and the Green Line. This is the Army's responsibility. I gave the order to fortify the Green Line at the expense of other missions in order to prevent the recurrence of incidents in 'Afula and Hadera. Elon More [West Bank settlement] does not protect 'Afula; the IDF, the Shin Bet, the police do. This must be stated once and for all.

Report on Peres' Speech on PLO Accord, Talks With Syria

TA0205183594

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew at 1355 GMT on 2 May begins a live relay of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' address to the Knesset plenum in response to three no-confidence motions by the opposition on the upcoming agreement with the PLO and the ongoing negotiations with Syria. Peres' 47-minute speech is punctuated by frequent heckling and the correspondent's voice-over summarizing the remarks from the floor, which precludes full texting of the speech. The foreign minister's remarks in English are given within slantlines. What follows are the monitorable parts of Peres' address:

"On Wednesday, at 1100 in Cairo, we will indeed sign an agreement with the Palestinians about the establishment of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho. This is a big day for Israel. Nothing will make Israel more Israeli than to be rid of its responsibility for 800,000 Palestinians living in a small strip of land. Nothing will make Israel more Israeli than this agreement. Nothing else can free us of the huge historical myth that Gaza belongs to us. We never owned it, and it has been a burden to us."

"Nothing will unite the people more than our departure from the Gaza Strip. If you want to speak about polls, let me tell you that 84 percent of the people support a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Nothing will legitimize the Zionist Movement more (?than this move). From the United States to Russia, from India to China; in Oman, Qatar, Morocco, Tunisia—the State of Israel is being recognized for the first time. This is something you never dreamed of or experienced."

Turning to the opposition, Peres says: "You invented autonomy; you recognized the PLO. You favored autonomy in all the territories, not just in Gaza and in Jericho; you sat with 'Abd-al-Shafi in Madrid and you made an agreement with the PLO in 1982 concerning Lebanon." Peres asserts that a government in which the late Menahem Begin was a member "proposed to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights in time of peace," and cites the Israeli Government resolution of 19 June 1967 that Israel should strive for a peace treaty with Syria "based on the international border and Israel's security needs."

Peres adds: "When the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria were granted Jordanian passports we all welcomed it. How is a Jordanian passport with the right to vote in elections to the Jordanian Parliament better than a laissez-passer—also known as a passport—to 800,000 inhabitants of Gaza? Do you want to bar 800,000 people the right to move? Do you want to grant them Israeli passports? Is that what you want?" "As far as passports are concerned, there are three possibilities: either grant them Israeli passports, give them Gazan passports, or leave them without passports. Will it please you to leave them without passports? Do you want to annex the Gaza Strip and make its inhabitants Israeli citizens? Is that what you want?"

"An agreement will be reached in Cairo to set up an autonomy in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho. Israel will remain in charge of external security, all the settlements will remain in their place, and we will be responsible for their safety. Autonomy will be enforced in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, contrary to the Camp David proposal to implement the autonomy all at once in Judaea and Samaria for all its inhabitants. I suppose the decision to apply autonomy to the Palestinian inhabitants referred to Palestinians who either belonged to the PLO or to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. There are no other Palestinians."

"We will establish the most logical possible autonomy. I would like to say that we want this autonomy to work. Just as one may buy a ticket to get on a bus, one may travel abroad with a passport; there is no difference. If somebody wants to write a letter, there are more stamps in the world than countries. The stamps and the passports will bear either of the following inscriptions: /The Palestinian Authority/ or /The Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority/. This will explicitly differentiate them from a state."

"The terms full autonomy and strong police force were coined by the Likud. /Self-government authority/ denotes full autonomy, not a state. If you want to call it a state, be my guests. The head of this /authority/ will not be called the president of a Palestinian state, as he is being called, but head of the /Palestinian Authority/. Autonomy means self-rule and it can be interpreted in various ways. The autonomy applies to everything except two issues; it gives the Palestinians full self-government except for two issues: security and external relations."

"We are carrying out a policy, without which the Jewish people would have faced a catastrophe and 20 years of procrastination." This latter remark triggers a commotion in the Likud's ranks, especially on the part of Yitzhaq Shamir, to whom Peres retorts: "You met with 'Abd-al-Shafi, the deputy founder of the PLO. You were the first one who spoke publicly with the PLO; you agreed to an international conference." "It was us, not you, who excluded Jerusalem from the autonomy. Shamir was prepared to wait another 20 years, which would have resulted in more hatred, more poverty, more victims, more acrimony, more knives. These were your prospects." Peres goes on to say that "most Israelis favor this move. Most people believe this is a courageous, genuine, and correct step. The fact that you ran out of gas and have no plan is your problem, not the people's."

"We are the only ones who pulled the country out of a deep freeze. People are delighted to see an Israeli delegation headed by the director general of the Defense Ministry in Qatar, Oman, Algeria, or Cairo, and to see us headed along a path of peace with the Palestinians."

Asked by an unidentified Knesset member whether he can give his commitment that there will be no Palestinian state, the foreign minister says: "I can commit myself to the fact that we are opposed to a Palestinian state and favor full autonomy, as we promised. Through the establishment of autonomy we prevented the establishment of a Palestinian state, because the alternative to autonomy is a Palestinian state."

"It is an illusion to believe that the problem is only one of borders. The problem is of borders, but also of relations. It is an illusion to think that terror can be cracked with jails and military operations. Terror must be uprooted through political means as well. Had relations in Hebron been different, the existence of a Jewish settlement there would have been no problem."

"The Revisionist Movement and the Labor Movement had both hoped for a totally different relationship between Jews and Arabs." "How can there be a relationship with 100,000 people having spent time in Israeli jails, 20,000 people having been injured, and 1,000 killed? Is that what you want? Is this the only way?" Turning to the opposition, Peres says: "Where are your ideology and your values? Where are your efforts to improve relations with the Palestinians and the Arabs, not because we fear them but on the basis of our own Jewish values?" "The Jewish state is a state of values. We will allow the Palestinians to travel as human beings with their own passports, to send letters to Arab countries with which we have no relations. They have the right to write letters, not in an environment of hatred and a feeling of superiority. If somebody in Gaza writes a letter, say to a relative in Iraq, does that mean that he founded a state?"

"We will not be deterred. We are flying a moral flag, not just a political one. We do not want to rule over another people, oppress it, or put it in jail. With murderers we will settle scores, while we will let ordinary people live with dignity. Therefore, the Knesset elections, public opinion polls, and even the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange show that we are on the right track."

"The leader of the Likud shamelessly appeared in a news conference and said: What we told you, that the prime minister had presented maps, is true. I hereby announce: The prime minister did not present even one map or any geographical lines to Christopher. I demand that the leader of the Likud come to this podium and apologize for spreading such lies." "The Labor party, the current coalition, the Israeli Government, and the prime minister publicly announced that we were in favor of a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights. We did not deny it, and we adhere to it. We did not give any maps. We will conduct negotiations because we want to attain peace with Syria, because we do not want to face a coalition with a totally different kind of weapons, because we must think about the future and not just about the past, because the future does not only herald knives but also missiles, because the future also holds nonconventional weapons, and because we must build a different future."

Again to the opposition, he says: "You will not frighten us even one little bit with your screams and threats. We are treading the only correct historical, political, strategic, and moral path. You know this deep down in your heart, and many of you support it."

"What we proposed to the Syrians is to conduct negotiations based on Israel's acceptance of the principle of territorial compromise and its wish to discuss one package encompassing withdrawal, peace, and security—because these are three inseparable issues—while cautiously weighing our pronouncements and our presentation of the issue. I hereby announce from this podium: This government will do what it promised and will strive to attain genuine peace with the Syrians, which will include an element of withdrawal. We will not present any maps before we know what the other components are and before we see that a spirit of reconciliation and willingness to arrive at a compromise exist on the Syrian side. They are not doing us a favor, and we are not doing them one. But, just as with the Palestinians, there are rules, and where security was concerned, we insisted on our position throughout the negotiations. On other issues, we tried to enable the Palestinians to live dignified lives as human beings; with passports, the right to write letters, self-government, and a police force."

Peres goes on to quote Israeli Army reservists: "For 27 years we were sitting ducks in the Gaza Strip, and now we are getting out of it. Shalom to Gaza and Shalom to Israel, and let us turn over a new leaf."

"The words traitor, liar, and others were uttered even at the time of the Camp David accords. There were stones, and flags, and demonstrations. The man who brought about the Camp David accords, Begin, deserves all the historical praise. He was not deterred by people calling him a traitor or the shouting of Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi."

Peres ends his speech by saying: "A historic decision entails pains, opposition, and screams. The decision has been made. We are about to embark on the only correct road and I propose to strike all the no-confidence motions from the Knesset's agenda."

Replying to an interjection by the Likud's Binyamin Begin citing press reports that the autonomy agreement is based on an agreement made by Denmark with some islands near Greenland, Peres says: "Any comparison with the autonomy that had been proposed by the Likud or any other autonomy in the world is totally unfounded, because in Greenland or elsewhere it was stipulated that the autonomy would be a permanent form of relations, whereas the Camp David accords stipulated that the autonomy would be a temporary form of relations, which would move on to a permanent arrangement within five years. Therefore, there is a huge difference and no comparison should be made to anything. Hence, all reports on the matter are totally worthless.

"Secondly, it is true that Gaza is not Greenland. So, what to do? Hold onto 800,000 people with jail wardens, soldiers, policemen, stones, and knives? For God's sake, what is your solution? Stop confusing the people! You offer no solution, other than using force, violence, and confrontation." He concludes by saying: "Knives can always be matched with knives, but the desire of one people to run its own life must be met by political and moral means—and we are providing both."

Labor Minister on Reservations About PLO Agreement

TA3004110894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Economy and Planning Minister Shim'on Shetrit has reservations about the agreement to be signed between Israel and the PLO, and says it has components which do not conform with the opposition to the development of a Palestinian state, to which labor had made a commitment.

Minister Shetrit has misgivings about Israel's agreement to permit the Palestinians to issue their own passports and stamps. He also opposes the ambiguity of the agreement and criticizes the fact that no date has been fixed for the annulment of the Palestinian National Covenant.

Gur on 'Insufficient' Syrian Response to Offer

TA0205155594 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 May 94

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Amnon Levi in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Levi] Deputy Minister Gur, you participated in the discussions U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held here today. We heard Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar's public statement yesterday that the Israeli offer is silly. We heard the outright public rejection. Did you hear anything in today's talks which sheds more light on the Syrian reply?

[Gur] Naturally, the style was completely different. The phrase silly plan was not even on the agenda. The talks are serious. We cannot speak of a breakthrough, but we are trying very hard to find the way to a breakthrough. I hope we will succeed.

[Levi] Christopher said that the negotiations have entered a new and substantive level, while you say that there was no breakthrough. How is the situation different, then?

[Gur] We must first remember that the U.S. secretary of state spent many hours discussing with the Syrian president, something we, certainly I, did not. It may be that following his talks with the Syrian president, the secretary received the impression that there is a different tune. Judging from our conclusions, however, I can say that the conditions which would enable us to say that we can enter a much more serious stage of negotiations have not yet been created .

[Levi] Did the Syrians make a counterproposal?

[Gur] As far as I know, the Syrians are not ready yet to discuss any issue in detail—neither territory nor the nature of peace. They have a single position, which is total, sweeping, and therefore cannot serve as an opening or a basis for the continuation of the negotiations. We try to maneuver because we attribute great importance to the continuation of the peace process. Naturally, we will not maneuver beyond the issues pertaining to Israel's security.

[Levi] By saying that the Syrians have a single stand, do you mean their demand that Israel immediately state that it is willing to withdraw from the Golan Heights in one fell swoop?

[Gur] In essence, what you said is correct. I would not want to be misquoted when I repeat Syrian remarks, but the idea is this: There is nothing to talk about before Israel announces unequivocally that it is withdrawing from the entire Golan Heights. No other issue can be discussed before this happens. Naturally, we cannot accept such an attitude. We care about the distant future, not just our immediate future, but also the future of our children and grandchildren. Unless we know what we are actually talking about, it would be very hard to make progress in the negotiations. Hence, we need patience, endurance, and a willingness to make progress.

[Levi] Qol Yisra'el reported this afternoon that, citing al-Asad, Christopher said Syria is willing to go into detail regarding the components of normalization with us, which is new. He also said that al-Asad would be willing to consider Israel's security needs, vague as this may sound.

[Gur] That is possible. I agree with you that this sounds a bit vague. I would use almost the same words, if I were asked. That is why this is absolutely insufficient. We cannot plan our life based on hints, allegations, or obscure plans. We want to hear clear things; then we will make our clear remarks.

[Levi] Regarding normalization, can you confirm the report I mentioned before?

[Gur] I cannot confirm any report. I can only speak of what we know is a basis for making decisions. I must point out with regret that the Syrian stand has not changed to the extent that would call for a change of the fundamental decisionmaking concepts because we will not compromise Israel's security.

[Levi] We spoke of the willingness to recognize Israel's security needs, and you said it is vague. Was the idea that keeps coming up regarding the demilitarization of the Golan Heights discussed this time? Is there any agreement on this?

[Gur] The issue may have been raised in the discussion between them. We have not reached this stage yet. We are not discussing it because we have not heard an initial Syrian declaration regarding the nature and essence of peace, or that we can talk about this. I hope that, as a result of the U.S. efforts, the Syrian president will indeed reach the stage in which he himself states his position—not through the mouths of others—and say he regards peace as a comprehensive, long-term peace. Then, we will be able to begin detailed negotiations. [passage omitted]

Seven Labor MK's To Oppose Giving Up Golan Heights

TA0105182394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Seven Labor Knesset members—Kahalani, Gal, Zismann, Goldschmidt, Shefi, Vanunu, and Kohen—today informed the prime minister in a letter that they would not support a proposal which means giving up the Golan Heights. They were responding to Mr. Rabin's remarks about concessions on the Golan Heights, our Knesset correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports.

Knesset Defeats Three No-Confidence Motions

TA0205184494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] A short while ago, the Knesset defeated the three motions of no confidence in the government submitted by the opposition. A majority of 52 members of the coalition voted against the motions, while 41 members of the opposition voted for them.

Knesset Member [MK] 'Azran of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] abstained. Before the vote took place, Moledet MK's Ze'evi and Ba'gad raised black umbrellas, pointed them at Foreign Minister Peres, and chanted Chamberlain, Chamberlain. They were removed from the plenum upon the order of the Knesset speaker, but were allowed to return for the vote.

Papers Comment on Agreement With PLO

TA0105132894

[Editorial Report] The 1 May editions of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ and Tel Aviv HATZOFE, both in Hebrew, carry contrasting editorials on the agreement signed in Cairo on 28 April.

The 800-word editorial on page B1 of HA'ARETZ, entitled "Removing the Obstacles," attributes the Cairo agreement "mainly to the prime minister's decision that the time has come to put an end to the recurring complications." The editorial goes on to say that it will be "impossible to divest the autonomy of its symbols," such as passports and stamps, "when it is applied to all the occupied territories, and the self-rule is bound to be recognized as a stage en route to full Palestinian independence."

Referring to the economic agreement signed in Paris on 29 April, the editorial notes that "it reflects the premise that the State of Israel and the Palestinian self-rule have a de facto equal standing."

The editorial concludes: None of the agreements should be seen as undermining Israel. Rather, they are a vehicle that will result in a stronger Israel. Nothing can fortify its security better than peace with the Palestinians and the Arab countries."

The 1,100-word page 2 HATZOFE editorial, entitled "The Document of Capitulation," states: "Israel has surrendered every principle to which it adhered in the course of the protracted talks with the PLO." "Only a blind man can still insist that the agreement deals with 'autonomy' in the spirit of the 'Camp David' accords. No one with eyes in his head can ignore the government's policy of capitulation. Not only is this policy incapable of promoting peace in the region, on the contrary, there is every sign that we are witnessing the establishment of 'a terrorist state' that will permanently threaten Israel's well-being and security."

HATZOFE maintains that in view of the agreement, "it is one's duty to rally in a bid to prevent at the last moment the disgraceful capitulation which has no equal anywhere in the world." "Since the 'capitulation agreement' contravenes the Oslo agreement, the prime minister is duty bound to submit the document again for the Knesset's approval. He must present both the open and clandestine documents, to enable the people's representatives to judge whether they support the capitulation agreement.

"And as is well known, the majority of the Knesset members do not support the establishment of a Palestinian-PLO state in Eretz Yisra'el. The Jewish majority opposes capitulation."

The editorial further argues: "The forced Knesset majority supposedly supporting the left-wing government represents a popular minority. Therefore, the government has no mandate to decide on issues fateful for the people and the State of Israel.

"And if the prime minister does not understand this, the people must bravely make themselves heard, in order to force Rabin to resign and to make way for a national Jewish government capable of safeguarding the Jewish people's right to Eretz Yisra'el and of protecting the well-being and security of the State of Israel.

"The perils, as we said, are great. We must not keep silent. Everything must be done to prevent the signing of the 'agreement of capitulation' to the PLO.

It is time to act!"

'Inclination' To Move on to Permanent Accord Viewed

TA2904143994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 p B3

[From the "Week" column by 'Uzi Benziman: "Departure From Oslo"]

[Text] An interesting—some may say precarious—trend has emerged in Jerusalem policy-making bureaus with regard to the Oslo agreements; it implies a departure from these agreements. The new inclination is tacit, for the time being, and no one will publicly admit it, but it is not one man's domain. It is embraced by power centers at the Foreign Ministry and, to a certain extent, by top IDF [Israel Defense Forces] echelons. It has not taken root at the prime minister's bureau yet, but experience shows that things which start brewing at the Foreign Ministry never fail to touch Yitzhaq Rabin eventually.

Both the IDF and the Foreign Ministry would like to deviate from the Oslo agreement timetables and move on at once (after the agreement on the Gaza and Jericho withdrawal is signed) to talks on the permanent arrangements. In both bodies, the prevailing opinion is that adherence to the staged implementation principle will generate a prolonged period of terror that would best be skipped or reduced. It is believed that when the PLO takes over in Gaza and Jericho, it will try to curb terrorism in these districts and prevent terrorist attacks in the Jewish enclaves under its rule. Yet it is clear to all those who are involved in the negotiations that terror will continue in the West Bank and inside the Green Line and that the PLO will not go out of its way to prevent it. From 'Arafat's point of view, continued terror spurs Israel to concessions and makes territorial occupation abhorrent to it.

In view of these assessments, very senior IDF and Foreign Ministry officials are saying that it would be preferable to forgo negotiations on the West Bank autonomy (following the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement) and broach the permanent arrangement issue at once. There is another, more moderate alternative: No official declaration concerning the dissolution of the negotiations on the interim stage of West Bank self-rule will be made. Rather, the interim stage will be imbued with permanent arrangement contents.

Meanwhile, a proposal for an even more far-reaching course of action has evolved at the Foreign Ministry: Other central components of the Oslo agreements should be abandoned on the pretext that the experience amassed since September 1993 requires that new lessons be learned and basic premises be updated. This theory contends not only that the second stage—that of the establishment of interim self-rule—is superfluous and cumbersome, but also that Israel should dispense with the axiom that it will not disband settlements. The grounds for this doctrine are as follow: Israel scored "superfluous achievements" in Oslo. It demanded and received a five-year interim period, which today seems an undesirable station along the road. Furthermore, it has obtained the PLO's consent to all the Israeli settlements' remaining intact, although the truth of the matter is that there are quite a few settlers who would rather return home to inside the Green Line.

The same applies to the fate of entire settlements that are isolated (such as Netzarim and Kfar Darom), which are being kept in place only because of the principle signed in Oslo, although all the Jerusalem policymakers agree that they are nothing but a nuisance. Why, then, should Israel zealously insist on each clause of the agreements, when the new reality suggests that certain clauses should be amended or waived? The promoters of this approach note, in addition, that under the interim stage clauses of the Oslo agreements, the IDF will have to evacuate the centers of West Bank cities. They wonder how this clause can be implemented as long as the Jewish islands in the heart of Hebron (and in Nabulus: the Joseph's Tomb yeshiva, for instance) are kept in place.

The one man who does not share this perception (for the moment?) is Yitzhaq Rabin. The prime minister has developed an obstinate—some say "square"—adherence to the Oslo agreements, from which he refuses to budge. He wants to see how the Gaza-Jericho agreement is implemented, and only on the basis of lessons learned from this experience will he approach the next stage of the agreements. The message he is conveying is that he cannot imagine reneging on the commitment that no settlements will be disbanded during the interim period. For Rabin, keeping his promises is the supreme test of his personal credibility and, therefore, of his ability to retain his main electoral asset: the public's trust. In the coming days, Rabin is liable to find himself in a complicated situation in which the question will again arise: To what extent is he steering the course of events and to what extent are events controlling him?

Government Urged To Show Patience in Syria Talks

TA2904153394 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 p 15

[Commentary by David Pedatzur: "A Creeping Devaluation on the Golan"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the talks or negotiations leading to negotiations with Syria, Syria is digging in its heels while Israel is stripping itself of all its assets, leaving very little for the U.S. "honest brokerage" and for the actual negotiations. On the eve of his current Middle East tour, the U.S. secretary of state made an effort to lower expectations of "dramatic breakthroughs." Speaking on the U.S. Information Service's Internet at a news conference attended by newsmen from Oman, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, and Jerusalem, Christopher described his visit as "routine." According to him, he is not carrying any "package," but he hopes to bring the Syrian president "certain interesting information" from Jerusalem.

It is doubtful that there is still any "interesting information" left in Jerusalem that the Syrians do not know about. Al-Asad is determined not to give up on a single inch of the Golan, while Israel is crawling its way down from the Golan. Looking back, one cannot help but wonder at the excessive Israeli optimism that followed al-Asad's declaration about his willingness to make peace with Israel. We have been informed of countless instances of "sensational progress," just plain "progress," and "breakthroughs" since we began making progress on the withdrawal.

The prime minister must have had very good reason for his declaration regarding his willingness to evacuate settlements on the Golan in return for peace. Yet Israel's lowering of the concession barrier does not follow any moderation in the Syrian stands. After all, Rabin himself stated more than once that "Syria has not made a single gesture to build confidence." Ever since al-Asad made his forced and stuttering remark after his meeting with Clinton in Geneva, Rabin has been waiting for the Syrian president to make another move; he never did. What else should Israel say that it has not yet openly said to make al-Asad kindly take the Golan Heights back?

It is very easy to argue with Rabin and quote the unequivocal statements he made prior to the elections regarding the future of the Golan. Nevertheless, ever since he assumed office, there has been a troubling erosion in the prime minister's statements. It is true that Rabin never said that the Golan Heights is an inseparable part of the State of Israel. He relies on the Labor platform and the willingness to make territorial concessions, including on the Golan. Territorial compromise could amount to evacuating settlements, but it should in no way be taken to mean total withdrawal from the Golan and uprooting all the settlements. [passage omitted]

Nonetheless, if the prime minister contends that his remarks about the Golan withdrawal and settlement evacuation were not made in order to exact a reciprocal Syrian gesture, who needed them and why were they made? The chilly reactions of the Syrian media left no room for doubt that Syria is not only demanding that all the settlements be dismantled but also that Israel fully withdraw from all of the territories, including Jerusalem—which has been the Syrian stand since al-Asad assumed power. Reacting to Rabin's remarks on the readiness to evacuate settlements, TISHRIN said he is "throwing sand in our eyes." The Syrian press believes that what is needed now is U.S. pressure on Israel.

In practice, the Israeli Government is fulfilling the commitment undertaken in the Labor platform that "efforts to bolster the existing settlements on the Golan Heights will continue." On one hand, it is "business as usual": accelerated development is taking place and investments are being made in every field, with the exception of tourism, including the construction of "the largest cowshed in the Middle East." On the other hand, every unnecessary Israeli declaration weakens the settlers' endurance and makes them feel that, sooner or later, everything will be dismantled or destroyed—if not in one blow, then in stages.

In the current Knesset, the government lacks majority support for a full withdrawal from the Golan and the evacuation of all the settlements there, even in exchange for full peace with Syria. The results of the referendum, the circumstances under which it will be held, and the contents of the "peace package" are unknown. Public opinion polls do not fully answer the question of whether the people are with the Golan or with peace without the Golan. Either way, even if there were no Israeli settlements on the Golan, there is doubt about whether a government decision on a full withdrawal would be widely accepted. Even in the absence of settlements on the Golan, the security consideration must lead the government to ensure that the Golan Heights will never again become a launching pad for attacks on the Galilee and Jordan Rift Valley settlements. Even if there were no settlements on the Golan and even if Syria were willing to sign a peace treaty with Israel, Syrian intentions would have to be tested over a period of 10-20 years before executing a full withdrawal from which there is no return.

After all, there is nothing new in the Syrian bazaar: He who is patient wins; he who is in a rush loses. Even if it was not about security and dangerously betting on our future, the Israeli dealer must show the same amount of patience demonstrated by the Syrian merchant.

IDF Patrol Comes Under Fire in Gaza Strip

TA0205054194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0510 GMT 2 May 94

[Report by Nisim Qeynan]

[Text] It has just been released for publication that shots were fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Sources] patrol in the southeastern corner of the Qatif Bloc settlement of Ganey Tal at about 0620 this morning. Four soldiers were wounded in the incident. As a result of the gunfire, the patrol driver lost control of the vehicle, which overturned and plummeted about 10 meters down a sand dune. An Army helicopter evacuated the wounded to the hospital. Two of the men, who suffered moderate injuries, apparently caused by the gunfire, were evacuated to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, while the other two, who sustained slight injuries, evidently as a result of the car's overturning, were moved to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

It has been further learned that the gunshots came from a two-story house on the outskirts of Khan Yunus, whose Amal neighborhood borders on Ganey Tal. The house has been known to serve as a terrorist hideout and observation post in the past.

The IDF and the security forces have mounted a manhunt for the terrorists, who fled the house. No arrests have been made. The number of assailants is unknown, although an initial debriefing indicates that the shots came from at least two firearms.

Over 3 Million Shekels To Be Invested in Golan Roads

TA2804111194 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Arye Arad]

[Excerpt] Twice over the past two days, the government has issued seemingly routine announcements that create the impression that Israel is sending a message to Syria regarding the future of the Golan Heights.

Two days ago, the Public Works Department announced that it will invest 2.5 million shekels in building a new road between Ramat Magshimim and Nator. Yesterday, Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar announced that he is allocating 750,000 shekels to solve transportation problems on the Golan. He made the promise in a meeting with the heads of the Golan Regional Council. The current sum is earmarked for works within the Jewish settlements, but Minister Qeysar promised that the government will also invest in improving existing roads and building new ones for the Druze on the Golan. There are currently 18,000 Druze and 12,000 Jewish residents on the Golan. [passage omitted]

Tender Issued for Building of Jericho Bypass Road

TA2904111094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Ilana Baum]

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry yesterday issued a tender via the Public Works Division for the construction of the "Jericho bypass" road.

It will be the first of a series of "security roads" to be built by Israel to avoid friction between Israelis and Palestinians and to increase security for the Jewish settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, approved the building of the new road. The length of the "Jericho bypass" road will be 13 km and it will cost 5 million shekels. It is a ring road which will be built some 2 km south of Jericho.

The work will begin within a month and will end within weeks after that.

About three months ago, the Construction and Housing Ministry prepared a master plan for the "autonomy roads," which will cost a total of 2 billion shekels.

They will involve the building of some 600 km of roads in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The plan, which is defined as top secret, categorizes the importance and urgency of each road.

The "Jericho bypass" road was defined as having immediate urgency.

The plan was presented for Defense Ministry inspection and Yitzhaq Rabin's approval. No permission has yet been given for the building of additional roads.

The autonomy road plan has two tracks:

One: restoring, expanding, and adding new lanes to existing strategic roads, such as the Jordan Rift Valley road, the Alon Road, and the Trans-Samaria Highway.

Two: building new roads, called "security roads" with the aim of assuring the safety of the Jewish residents. These are bypass roads, such as the "Jericho bypass" road.

The aim of the security roads is to bypass Arab population centers and prevent friction between Jews and Arabs. Under this clause, additional roads are planned: the Ramallah bypass, the Nabulus bypass, the Tulkarm bypass, and the Shomron bypass.

Treasury Data Shows Expansion of Economic Activity

TA2604170094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Apr 94 p A12

[Report by Tzvi Zrahya]

[Text] Most of the economic indicators for January-March 1994 point to an expansion of economic activity conforming with the annual forecast, according to a survey of developments in the economy published yesterday by Tzipi Gal-Yam, the Treasury's economic adviser.

The data does not reflect the impact of the closure on the territories, and the Treasury says it is still too early to discern its impact.

The survey notes that in the first quarter of 1994 the number of jobless dropped by 23 percent compared to the same period last year, and that there was an increase of 28 percent in tourism, and 12 percent in state revenues from taxes. Retail trade went up 15 percent and imports of consumer goods by 18 percent.

In the first quarter of 1994, there was a 22 percent increase in the import of investment assets compared to the same period last year, as well as in the import of raw materials, and a growth of 5.4 percent in the export of goods.

The index went up higher than anticipated in January-March, but it is still lower than the same period over the past two years.

The Treasury noted that it is still too early to decide if the economy has exceeded its aim of 8 percent inflation this year.

It was also said that there is stability in the financial markets and that they have even shrunk following a bullish period in the stock exchange in the last quarter of 1993.

Beilin on Future of Relations With South Africa

TA3004194094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by 'Imanu'el Rosen, in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Rosen] Although we all have short memories, I remember that at the end of the 1980's, when you served as the Foreign Ministry's political director general, you suggested that we hold a dialogue and contacts with Mandela and the ANC. Then Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was very mad at you for this.

[Beilin] Well, yes, but he has changed his mind since. Also, there were sanctions against South Africa, and Israel was not too enthusiastic about taking steps against South Africa. Eventually, in March 1987 we joined the international club that imposed the sanctions, and I was very happy with this. I believe this is one of the reasons that today we are able to hold a dialogue, as we do, with Nelson Mandela, who was then still in prison, and with the ANC.

[Rosen] Do you believe that over the past two or three years we corrected the mistakes made over the past decades?

[Beilin] I believe so because up to 1987, Israel was, in fact, the only country to openly admit that it disregarded the sanctions the United Nations imposed on South Africa in 1977. This created a very negative sentiment against Israel among the black South Africans. They seriously supported the Palestinians, hence, their unbalanced attitude toward the PLO all these years. It was very difficult for us to make the change, and I cannot say that today they are completely balanced and that we will continue our passionate love affair with South Africa. The new regime will certainly be different from the previous, very pro-Israel, white regime.

[Rosen] We had very good defense relations. Was this eliminated?

[Beilin] In 1987 we decided not to renew defense contracts. That meant that existing contracts which still were in effect were followed through to the date set for their termination. No new contracts were signed. Therefore, the defense relations between us have completely decayed.

[Rosen] Are there other areas of cooperation which will continue? Are there contacts now with Mandela's men on this?

[Beilin] Primarily, there is trade between the two countries. We import coal and other raw materials, and we export there. We naturally have very close ties with the Jewish community there. Also, there are contacts, established about a year ago or so, with the ANC, which is a very broad coalition, and with Mandela. He was due to visit Israel some time ago, and he postponed it and will probably visit here in the future. Hence, certainly we have the beginning of a very interesting dialogue, which carries many opportunities, with the new South African leadership.

[Rosen] Is there a possibility of an Israeli-South African cooperation regarding black Africa in general?

[Beilin] We have asked ourselves this very question, though I doubt it is possible. There is a big question: What kind of country will South African become? So far, it has been a Western country with a black population that could not even vote. Today, it will be very different. Will it become another Third World country with the symptoms of such countries, including the big disappointment with past African leaders; or will it be a very different country, which uses the enormous wealth at its disposal? There is a chance the latter will be the case, but I find it hard to believe it will have the time or the ability to even consider cooperating with a country such as Israel in other Third World countries or black Africa. We will continue our efforts in Africa. We are in the midst of a very intensive campaign of economic cooperation with African countries. If the new South African regime would be willing to cooperate with us, we would certainly welcome this. I, however, doubt this is a realistic option at this time. [passage omitted]

Defense Cooperation Agreement Signed With Poland

TA2804174294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Israel and Poland have signed a defense cooperation agreement. Under its terms, the two countries are to establish machinery for cooperation between their defense industries. The agreement was signed by Israel's prime minister and the visiting Polish defense minister.

Jordan, Syria Not to Attend Cairo Signing Ceremony

JN0305081094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 94, pp 1, 9

[Article by staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan will not attend the signing in Cairo on Wednesday of an agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel to implement Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories, officials said Monday. A senior Jordanian official told the JORDAN TIMES that the Kingdom had "apologised and will not send anyone to the signing ceremony."

Representatives of around 40 countries are expected to attend the signing of the self-rule agreement by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzaq Rabin.

The official, who asked for anonymity, would not elaborate on the reasons for Jordan's absence from the Cairo ceremony, but analysts believed it was to underline Jordan's displeasure at the lack of coordination with the PLO.

Other political sources, however, said they believed that the Jordanian decision was largely dictated by its declared policy of keeping a low profile in the Middle East peace negotiations until the Kingdom's demand for an end to the interception of al-'Aqabah-bound ships is met.

But other sources also maintain that Jordan is "displeased at being marginalised in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, and some of the points in the agreemnt have implications on Jordan without its taking part in any of the decisions reached."

After Israel and the PLO signed the Declaration of Principles on the White House lawn Sept. 13, King Husayn had said the Kingdom "will not be party to an agreement involving Jordan without having a role" in the negotiations. Jordan has also often criticised the PLO for not coordinating its position with the Kingdom before reaching agreements with Israel.

Jordan has abstained from an active role in the Middle East peace process until the Kingdom's demand for an end to the interception of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels is satisfactorily met.

This week, the Kingdom sent a lone observer to the multilateral working group on disarmament in Qatar and earlier this month Jordan sent only an observer to a meeting of the multilateral working group on water in Oman.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after a meeting with King Husayn in London last Monday, announced that "subject to fine-tuning" Washington has accepted a Jordanian proposal under which Lloyds Register in London will be in charge of a sanction-verification regime at al-'Aqabah port.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told the JORDAN TIMES then that despite the fact that Washington's acceptance "removed a major obstacle" from the way of renewed Jordanian participating in negotiations, the Kingdom was awaiting final agreement and implementation of the al-'Aqabah arrangement before assuming its role in the talks.

Other senior officials have since then said that the Kingdom needs to be reassured that its sovereignty and territorial integrity would not be brought into question in any proposed modality for the sanctions-verifications procedures. They said Jordan had certain "reservations and firm positions" in the modalities and mechanism of the proposed arrangement.

AFP adds from Cairo: Syria will not attend the signing of the Palestinian autonomy accord, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Monday. "I do not think Syria's Foreign Minister (Faruq al-Shar') will attend the ceremony," Mr. Musa told reporters.

Damascus has criticised the PLO-Israeli deal on limited autonomy as a "separate deal" undermining Arab solidarity and Syria's quest for "global peace."

In Tunis, Palestinian officials said PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi had also turned down an invitation from Egypt to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Qaddumi, who has expressed reservations over the deal, refused to attend the historic Sept. 13 ceremony at the White House, when the PLO and Israel signed the declaration of principles opening the way for autonomy.

In total 50 Palestinian officials were invited to the ceremony, including former chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi and spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, Palestinian officials said. An Egyptian diplomat, said many Arab officials had agreed to attend, including the foreign ministers of Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and Oman.

Clarification Sought on Israel-PLO Economic Accord

JN0205105694 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 1-2 May 94, p 1

[Text] AKHIR KHABAR has learned that the Jordanian Government has asked the PLO for some clarifiction on the economic agreement the Israeli and Palestinian sides signed in Paris last Friday [29 April].

Sources close to the Jordanian Government have said that the PLO sent the Jordanian Government the official 60-page text of the agreement, and that the government discussed it yesterday and voiced some reservations which need to be clarified by the PLO.

The source said that Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO Economic Department and head of the Palestinian delegation to the economic talks, is expected in Amman tomorrow, Monday to discuss the agreement with the Jordanian Government and communicate Jordan's remarks to President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo next Tuesday.

AKHIR KHABAR has learned that Jordan voiced displeasure when the details of the agreement were discussed yesterday. Tne source said the government has many reservations, particularly concerning customs unity between the autonomous area and Israel. The source said that the agreement contains basic concessions made by the Palestinian side to Israel.

Committee To Resist Normalization With Israel

JN0105171994 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 2 May 94 p 2

[Text] Jordanian political parties and national forces have set up a popular committee to counter agreements of capitulation and normalization with the Zionist enemy. The provisional administrative body of the committee has called a meeting for 1800 on Thursday, 5 May, 1994, to ratify the bylaws and obtain official registration.

Following is the text of the committee's bylaws:

At this stage, the Arab world, as well as Jordan, is being targeted by a ferocious U.S.- and Zionist-led imperialist offensive to consolidate the foundations of a Middle East order with the necessary mechanisms, as a counterbalance to a pan-Arab, democratic, revivalist strategy, by deepening the dependency of Arab regimes and by the recognition of and normalization with the Zionist enemy.

The Gaza-Jericho accord, the Jordanian-Israeli agenda, and the ongoing negotiations between the Zionist enemy and the Arab regimes are only the beginning of a plan to impose the so-called Middle East order.

First—The Objective and Functions:

Based on the above, the Jordanian parties are setting up a committee to resist negotiations, hegemonic American-Israeli agreements, and political, economic, and cultural normalization with the Zionist enemy. The committee's work will aim for a dual function:

1. A determined stand against the hegemonic and normalizing effort in Jordan and its attendant results, particulary the call for a confederation grouping the Palestinians, Israel, and Jordan, as well as resistance to attempts to impose U.S.-Israeli economic dominance on Jordan so the country's political future is exposed to threat.

2. Laying bridges and forging coordination with all nationalist and democratic forces in the Arab and Muslim arenas that have rejected the hegemonic and normalizing agreements, above all the Palestinian forces that are taking a negative stand toward the Oslo and Cairo agreements and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. The aim is to uphold the historic, inalienable rights of the Arabs in Palestine, including the right to self-determination, repatriation, and statehood.

Second—The Means:

To advance the goals and functions of the committee, the following activities are to be pursued, not excluding other approaches:

1. The publication of a monthly bulletin specialized in pointing out the dangers of the Zionist presence and exposing those who establish contacts with the Zionist enemy. The bulletin will have a cultural, political, and scientific orientation.

2. Organizing panel discussions, lectures, and rallies to point up the dangers of the Zionist presence and the risks to Jordan and the Arab nation that normaliztion carries.

3. The formation of popular bodies in Jordan to marshal public pressure to forestall any move to scrap or amend legislation barring dealings with the Zionist enemy in the political, economic, and cultural domains, or any other spheres, and to keep the boycott of Israel in place.

4. The formation of subcommittees of economic experts, businessmen, trade unionists, and professionals to combat the economic opening to the Zionist enemy, which is potentially detrimental to Jordan's industrial and agricultural sectors. The subcommittees should also resist dependency on the Zionist economy.

5. The formation of cultural subcommittees to counter and expose cultural normalization with the Zionist enemy in any shape of form and to block all channels to promote cultural penetration of our society, including any amendments to the school curricula to further the cause of cultural normalization with the enemy.

6. Any politician, merchant, intellectual, writer, unionist, or journalist who does business with Israelis must be isolated.

PLO 'Interference' in Local Affairs Criticized

JN2604171494 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 26 Apr-2 May 94 p 4

["Jordanian Papers" column by Samih al-Ma'ayitah: "The Little High Commissioner"]

[Text] A few years ago, we used to write or talk about the PLO leadership with caution and care. We were afraid that our writing could be interpreted as promoting narrow regionalism and striking at Jordan's national unity. However, the road chosen by the PLO leadership, especially after it signed the Oslo accord with the Zionist enemy and its agreeing to an unequal alliance with the Zionist entity—an alliance of service, exploitation, and relinquishment of most of the Palestinian territory and rights in return for a meager authority—has stripped this leadership of its claim to be representing the Palestinian people. This leadership is now no more than a party that controls Palestinian decisonmaking. This is an established fact despite the recognition of this leadership by the majority of nations, because what is important is the extent of recognition and respect extended to this leadership by the Palestinian people, who adhere to their cause and rights.

I wrote this introduction to point to the high commissioner spirit displayed by some PLO leaders in their reaction to some local Jordanian developments and their provocative interference in Jordanian issues. Observe how Hakam Bal'awi a few weeks ago conveyed protests from his president against mosque preachers, the Jordanian press, and the activity of some people who oppose a Middle East peace settlement, such as the Hamas Movement and Hani al-Hasan. Mr. Bal'awi was not satisfied with direct protest. The PLO leadership has had recourse to the U.S. Administration and its ally, the Zionist enemy, to put pressure on Jordan. Thus, we heard Zionist threats against Jordan to stop the media and political activity of Hamas on its territory.

His excellency the Palestinian ambassador in Amman has also been doing the same thing for quite a while. He has interfered with some newspapers, threatened some writers, and tried to buy some others. All these practices are done in public. The most recent example of this is his protest against some of the writings of Khalid Mahadin about some PLO stands. This prompted the prime minister to order censoring the writings of Mahadin or preventing his writing.

The PLO leadership does not like to see Jordan lead a democratic life. It is unhappy with the freedom we are experiencing. We thank God that we are not among the subjects of Mr. 'Arafat and his democratic leadership. If this were the case, gallows would be erected and harsh sentences would be passed against whoever opens his mouth. We feel sorry for our brothers who will live in the Gaza-Jericho protectorate under the democracy of the PLO leadership.

The PLO leadership should stop interfering in Jordan's affairs and manifesting the spirit of the high commissioner in the way it deals with the Jordanian arena. This leadership does this because it feels that it is supported by the U.S. Administration and the Zionist enemy. This leadership has no right to set a ceiling to our democracy. We are more concerned about observing laws, regulations, and the Constitution and we will not exchange this ceiling for the whims and wishes of this leadership.

I reassert that we are talking here about a powerful faction of the PLO that is now linked strategically with the Zionist enemy and is conducting itself according to the enemy's desires and terms at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people first and the rights and sovereignty of some Arab countries.

Editorials Condemn Saudi's 'Naive Political Game'

Saudi Claims on Restoration Criticized

JN2104130594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Apr 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Credit Goes to the One Who Deserves It"]

[Text] What has made the brothers in Saudi Arabia involve themselves in the restoration of the Islamic places in the holy city these days, and to claim that the Kingdom is going ahead with its commitment to implement the project in cooperation with UNESCO.

Everyone knows that Jordan, and His Majesty King Husayn personally was the one who looked after, supervised, and financed the restoration of the holy places and the Dome of the Rock throughout the past decades. The celebrations held in Amman and Jerusalem a few days ago to mark this great achievement were evidence of this restoration, which is the third Hashemite restoration that was carried out with pure Jordanian planning, supervision, and financing. That effort was blessed by our people and all religious and popular establishments in Jerusalem and the whole of occupied Palestine.

While carrying out this noble duty, Jordan was showing commitment to historical and geographical responsibilities without reminding anyone of a favor or boasting about what it is doing. Jordan only seeks God's satisfaction and wants to serve and maintain the first of the two qiblas and the third holiest shrine.

The statement by the official Saudi source, claiming that Saudi Arabia is continuing its restoration of the holy places through UNESCO, can only be understood as arrogance, claiming the work of others, disregarding the efforts of others, and extreme ingratitude.

What is worse is that the Saudi official source insists on involving an international organization, that is UNESCO, in what he termed the project to restore the holy places, as if he wants to internationalize these shrines and put them under international control, ignoring that these shrines are Arab and Islamic, and sovereignty over them is only for Almighty God, as His Majesty King Husayn said.

His Majesty King Husayn has openly and loudly said: We are carrying out this duty in the name of the Islamic nation and on its behalf, and the path for the restoration of our shrines in Jerusalem is known—it is the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and the Committee for the Restoration of al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock.

Neither UNESCO, nor any other international establishment or organization have any connection with the reconstruction and restoration because these activities are carried out by the Hashemites, who have jurisdiction and religious right, and who are—historically and geographically—the custodians of the Covenant of 'Umar

Bin-al-Khattab. All allegations by any side will only bring regret to those who make them, and the credit will continue to be for the one who deserves it.

'Sudden' Concern for Jerusalem Assailed

JN2204120594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 21-22 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by the political editor: "The Road to Jerusalem is Known"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has said that it will go ahead with its commitment to renovate and restore al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock through its existing contacts, continuous consultations, and strong cooperation with the UNESCO.

This was announced by an official Saudi source yesterday. These Saudi words, which are covered in the guise of Islam, smacks of an exposed and naive political game. One would ask: Why is there this sudden concern for Jerusalem and al-Aqsa after forgetting them for such a long time? Are the ones who allowed the invaders to encroach on Karbala' and al-Najaf from their land really concerned about al-Aqsa?

The file of al-Aqsa was overlooked by the Saudi brothers for many years, Jerusalem fell between their barrels of oil, forgotten at the bottom of a list of Saudi Arabia's priorities. What has changed?

The Saudi statement on the expansion work makes us wonder about the legitimacy of such a measure. The value of al-Aqsa lies in preserving it as it is through renovation and restoration, not through changing its features under the pretext of restoration and renovation.

Al-Aqsa must not be exploited for political oneupmanship, not through cooperation with UNESCO or coordination with OPEC. Out of our concern for the Saudi brothers, we call on them to review their ability in running the affairs of al-Ka'bah and the two holy mosques.

Jerusalem has its God and men; and the Hashemites are the ones who sacrifice their souls and money for al-Aqsa and its restoration. The address of the bodies in charge of restoring the holy places is well known—they are the Jordanian Awqaf Ministry and the Committee in charge of restoring al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

Restoration Remarks Cause 'Setback' in Ties

JN2504072894 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 25 Apr 94 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Jordanian-Saudi relations, tense since the Gulf war, have witnessed yet another setback. In spite of some mediation attempts to reduce the tension, the Jordanian-Saudi relationship has now plummeted to an all-time low, especially in the wake of King Husayn's visit to the holy land to perform the minor pilgrimage. The surprise then was that Saudi officials did not observe the simplest rules of tact and protocol stipulated by international norms.

What happened last week was another negative incident that reflects a Saudi desire to escalate the official quarrel. Saudi Arabia has issued an official statement saying it is taking care of the reconstruction of holy sites through UNESCO.

The seriousness of this statement is that it came only hours after Jordan's grand, official celebration of the unveiling of the dome and a plaque that set 18 April, 1994 as the date the reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock was finished and the repair work on the Salah-al-Din pulpit, burned by the Zionists in 1968 when they burned the al-Aqsa Mosque, was begun.

Jordan chose not to reply officially to the Saudi statement, leaving facts on the ground to speak for themselves. Except for an editorial in a daily, all comments by Saudi media at home and abroad which elaborated on the Saudi official statement were absolutely ignored by Jordan.

As background to this incident, it should be mentioned that three years ago, UNESCO proposed a plan to refurbish the al-Aqsa Mosque, in coordination with Israel, since it is the occupying power that controls Palestinian land. Israel encouraged this step. Jordan, however, rejected this approach when it received a message, just like all other countries, to contribute to the reconstruction of the al-Aqsa Mosque. [passage omitted]

Front Urges End to Embargo on Iraq, al-'Aqabah

JN0105152094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 May 94 p 4

[Excerpts] Amman—The Jordanian National Front, which includes the Jordanian National Alliance Party, the Progress and Justice Party, al-Yaqazah Party, and al-Watan Party, have issued a political statement on the U.S. position and Christopher's tour. It says:

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returned for a new tour of the Middle East after this region witnessed disgraceful events between his current and previous tour. We also believe he has no plan to end the region's grievances and sufferings, as well as Israel's terrorism and tyranny.

As an example, we would like to mention the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the killing of innocent worshipers in the mosque by Israeli settlers, as well as the continued killing of the sons of the Palestinian people. The United Nations has condemned that terrorism and crime and stressed the need to find international protection for the Palestinians, but the United States voiced its biased reservations about some of the provisions. [passage omitted]

We also demand that the unjust blockade, which the United States has imposed on Iraq's people in order to plunder the oil wealth in the region, undeterred by law or conscience, be lifted.

Regarding Jordan, we can say that despite the statements the U.S. secretary of states made on several occasions that Jordan is a friendly country and maintains cordial relations with his country, the United States is still exercising, under UN cover, these cordial relations with a blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba, in order to maintain the interests of its servants in the Arab world and Israel and to harm Jordan's economic status. As some media organizations say, the United States is dissatisfied with democracy in Jordan because any attempt by neighboring Arab countries to follow suit will threaten its servants' regimes. Despite all this, the United States urges Jordan to continue peace talks with Israel under the usual U.S. sponsorship of peace conferences.

U.S. 'Grudge' Seen Fueling Anti-Jordan Moves

JN2804142594 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 28 Apr 94 pp 1, 18

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] Even with the fabricated atmosphere permeating Jordanian-U.S. meetings, and the less-than-warm statements about relations, the United States continues to harbor a grudge against Jordan and expresses dissatisfaction with its pan-Arab policy. The United States is also playing a decisive role in maintaining the estrangement between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. It wants to confuse Jordan's stands and to foil its initiatives and policies.

The reason for all this is that the United States still insists that Jordan supplied Iraq with information about coalition forces during the Gulf war and that it was, and still is, an outlet supplying Iraq with its needs, despite the unjust embargo.

The United States continues to tighten the siege on the Port of al-'Aqabah in order to cause more harm to the Jordanian economy, in retaliation for the Jordanian masses' stands in support of Iraq—stands that continued to escalate and nurtured a sense of hostility in the Jordanian arena against the United States's positions.

Political analysts say that during every meeting with Jordan, the United States asks questions about the Gulf war, attempting to confirm its doubts and statements. By interfering in Jordan's relations with Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, it tries to isolate Jordan and its positions from any Arab support.

Jordan has confirmed to the United States that these accusations are untrue and that its role during the Gulf was only a moral one.

The Israeli claim that Jordan accommodates Hamas leaders is the second stage of the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy aimed at creating a state of instability in Jordan. Jordan condemned such interference in its domestic affairs, saying it does not allow anyone to impose a mandate or a decision on it because this constitutes an encroachment on its sovereignty and violates its stands.

The Americans tried several times to twist Jordan's arm by various means of intimidation and temptation for the purpose of singling Jordan out. However, despite all its suffering, Jordan has rejected these demands and maintained its firm pan-Arab stand toward Palestine and the Gulf war.

Counterfeit U.S. Bills Circulating in Market

JN0105145694 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 1 May 94 pp 1, 17

[Report by the financial editor]

[Excerpt] Counterfeit, 1990-issue [U.S.] $100 bills have recently found their way onto the Jordanian market, according to money changer sources. The counterfeit bills are said to be as near perfect as the originals; the imitations can stand the test of x-ray detectors. The paper used in the imitations is said to be remarkably similar to authentic bills.

Money changers are advising members of the general public against accepting 1990-issue $100 bills from suspect sources before subjecting it to thorough inspection. The counterfeit banknotes bear distinctive marks setting them apart from the genuine $100 bills. [passage omitted]

'Resistance' Announces Attack on Israeli Patrol

NC0205194394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The Islamic resistance announced that a group of its men detonated an explosive charge under an Israeli occupation forces patrol on al-'Ayshiyah Road in al-Rayhani at 1700 today, wounding and killing patrol members. Immediately afterward, ambulances and helicopters came to evacuate the wounded. A second explosive went off when a number of enemy personnel were assembled in the area.

Elsewhere, a 27-year old citizen, Sonia Musallam, was wounded in the right shoulder when Israeli occupation forces opened machine-gun fire from their post in al-Majidiyah as she looked after her cattle in Shab'a farms near Halta Town. Soldiers of the Norwegian contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon took her to Marj 'Uyun Hospital inside the occupied strip.

Casualties Reported

NC0305085594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Israeli helicopters raked the outskirts of Zibqin and nearby valleys this morning. The outskirts of Habbush came under Israeli 82-mm artillery bombardment from Israeli positions in Tallat al-Suwayda' at 0500 today. Shells also landed in Jabal al-Raf'i and the Nab' al-Tasah basin. Contrary to other reports, no shells landed in Yatar but two shells fell 150 meters away from the village.

At 0445 today the resistance men detonated two explosive charges on the al-'Ayshiyah-al-Jarmaq Road as an Israeli 12-man foot patrol was passing, killing or injuring the entire patrol. Two Israeli helicopters immediately evacuated the casualties to the occupied land.

A joint Israeli-Lahdist foot patrol last night advanced to the valleys adjacent to the villages of Kafra and Yatar and raked them with machine-gun fire.

Between 2100 and 0100 today the Israeli artillery in Tallat al- Bayyadah pounded the outskirts of Majdal Zun, Zibqin, Kafra, and Yatar. At 2330 the outskirts of Sribbin, Haddatha, and Ayta al-Jabal came under an 155-mm artillery barrage from the Israeli positions in Tallat Yarin. Shortly after midnight, enemy boats fired flares over Majdal Zun and al-Mansuri.

Mediators Seek Government-'Awn 'Dialogue'

PM2904151294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Bisharah Shirbil: "Contacts Pave the Way for Serious Dialogue Between the Lebanese State and 'Awn"]

[Excerpt] London—Reliable sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Lebanese state is moving toward opening a serious dialogue with [former Prime Minister and Army Commander] General Michel 'Awn with the aim of filling the political vacuum that occurred after the arrest of Dr. Samir Ja'ja', commander of the now banned Lebanese Forces.

They added that "the dialogue is beginning through local and international mediators and Damascus is not distant from that."

They pointed out that "the end of Ja'ja"s role, the detached position of the Christians, and the cancellation of Pope John Paul II's visit to Lebanon have created the feeling that the current situation cannot continue as solutions in the region become imminent, and that peace requires internal stability and a strong Lebanese authority supported by the broadest sectors of Lebanese society."

The same sources emphasized that "the meeting which took place between 'Awn and former President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil covered the dialogue issue but there were differences of opinion regarding the national conference 'Awn intends to convene in Paris in June. Al-Jumayyil is not expected to attend that conference, for several reasons."

They added that "contacts made by mediators between 'Awn and the state have come a long way and the results will be known at the earliest possible time barring a surprise that would torpedo the entire process." [passage omitted]

Paper Assails Gulf Countries' Stand on Israel

NC0105192094 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 18 Apr 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Where Was the Sultan's Dagger?"]

[Text] While people in south Lebanon offer their blood as they stand fast against Israeli aggression, the Sultanate of Oman hosts a water conference with the participation of a large Israeli delegation, as if the sultanate has fought against the aggression just so it can discuss normalization today.

While Syria leads the steadfastness against aggression and occupation and while our people in the West Bank face the fiercest kind of persecution and murder, the Gulf Arabs' clear treachery is emerging. Qatar wants a gas project with Israel; Oman receives an Israeli delegation for a water conference; there is another conference in Bahrain tomorrow; and the Gulf Arabs' obvious treachery continues.

These conferences are nothing but conspiracy itself and a stab in the back. They have nothing to do with the Arabs' traits, chivalry, and loyalty. They have nothing to do with lifting injustice from the oppressed and helping a brother. Instead they represent treachery.

If Washington believes that through the Sultanate of Oman and the emirates of Qatar and Bahrain it can achieve normalization between the Arabs and Israel and, in turn, encircle steadfast Damascus, it is seeking a false peace, seeking to support and perpetuate the occupation, and seeking support from nominal Arab parties who will collapse at the first encounter.

Neither the dagger of the sultan of Oman nor the bondmaids of the Qatari amir and the mercenaries of the Bahraini amir will have any effect on the conflict with Israel. All this is no more than a cartoon show that will disappear in the first round of the conflict.

The conflict is over Syrian land. It is between Syria and Israel, between Lebanon and Israel, between Palestine and Israel, and between the Syrian people and the Israeli occupier. The Gulf Arabs have no right to decide on any measure concerning the Syrian- Israeli conflict; rather they should provide every support for Damascus, Beirut, and the intifadah, because those form a real shield against Israeli ambitions in the whole Arab world.

Israel wants to devour and divide the Arab world; it wants to deal with certain parties unilaterally and flirt with others. All this is part of an Israeli plan to control the future of Syria and the Arab world.

Every nationalist and every Arab is today urged to contemplate and read the Israeli policy and get to know its dangers. There are two ways to do this: First, to defend the rights and prevent Israel from enslaving us; or secondly, to accept Israeli enslavement. In that case all Arabs will have to subject their fate to the Jewish evil which seeks to govern us and dominate our future and wealth.

If only the Arabs would realize the danger of the Israeli serpent sneaking into the best part of their house. Then they would chop its head off instead of giving it a warm welcome, as is happening in Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain.

We are engaged in a fierce conflict with Israel, which is occupying Palestine and parts of Syria and Lebanon. The essence of the conflict is the land and until this land is recovered, things like this have no description but betrayal.

It remains for us to ask: Where was Sultan Qabus' dagger during the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Column Questions Severing Ties With Iraq

NC0205090794 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 21 Apr 94 p 5

["The Right Angle" column by Nadim Muhsin]

[Excerpts] Assassinations carried out by states with legal institutions are definitely considered criminal actions that demand bringing their perpetrators to trial. The mentality that plans such assassinations needs to be changed to adapt to the modern age. [passage omitted]

A state's assassination of its citizens is an indication of failure and bankruptcy. Assassinating individuals cannot save a country, lift a blockade, repulse an enemy, or restore arms programs that are the rights of every state. It is only an expression of anger and the loss of nerves, and these are not the characteristics of rational states or wise governments.

We condemn the assassination of a citizen born in Iraq at the hands of other citizens. Yes, Iraqi officials made a mistake in planning and perpetrating the crime, which constitutes a diplomatic problem demanding an extraordinary solution. Lebanon's security must be safeguarded against all physical liquidations that take place on its territory to enable it to prepare the people to confront the Jewish enemy. But why sever relations between Lebanon and Iraq? Some time ago we heard from the Lebanese Industrialists Association; trade union officials; and political, financial, military, and press figures that they believe that the only useful, practical response to the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the establishment of a Lebanese-Syrian-Jordanian-Iraqi common market and political-economic-military-cultural coordination. This could save our people in Palestine from being swallowed by the Jewish state and could be a force that would stand in the face of the Jewish Satan and those behind him.

Our vital interests, which affect our future and social existence in greater Syria, have been undermined and no longer have any value because of the blood of one individual. It is being said that no individual, no matter how prominent he may be, should be more important than society and that his death is no reason for killing the future of that society.

Will severing its relations with Iraq make Lebanon grow stronger and more united, strengthen its economy, and reinforce its political and military position or will the establishment of Lebanese-Syrian- Jordanian-Iraqi-Palestinian working committees that will make plans, not statements, and implement them achieve these goals?

We are compelled to make a comparison between the Lebanese official position toward Iraq and its position toward the Jewish state. Lebanon should immediately break off negotiations with the Jewish enemy, negotiations that will lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Israelis recently shelled Sidon and killed some of its citizens. Before that, they masterminded the explosion in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church through their agents and were about to rekindle the war in Lebanon. They killed our citizens. [passage omitted]

Why hasn't Lebanon broken off negotiations with the Jewish state, which is responsible for killing tens and even hundreds of Lebanese citizens on Lebanese territory since the beginning of the capitulation negotiations, but broke off relations with Iraq who killed—in the view of the Lebanese state—an Iraqi citizen on the same territory?

We never knew that the Jewish state was closer to Lebanon than Iraq. We never knew that the patience of the Lebanese was exhausted toward a brother but not toward the Jews. [passage omitted]

Editorial Criticizes Butrus-Ghali Actions

NC0105201194 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 Apr 94 p 3

[Editorial by Hasan Sabra: "Butrus-Ghali, Listen to the Bosnians"]

[Text] "If you have any honor, you should resign." This is what Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali following the barbaric Serbian attack on Gorazde.

We cannot but congratulate the Bosnian president for his words to the UN secretary general, although we are confident that the latter will not heed Izetbegovic's advice for obvious reasons of which the secretary general is aware.

The secretary general is in the habit of denouncing any legitimate operation mounted by dispossessed Palestinians against the Jewish usurpers in the land of Palestine, equating such actions with the attacks the Zionists wage against Palestinians, Lebanese, and Arabs everywhere every day. Such a man, of course, will hardly find fault in the failure of the UN forces to perform their simplest duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina, that of stopping the massacres against the inhabitants of that country.

We never thought the secretary general likely to deviate from the Western line of thinking and decision-making. Butrus-Ghali's elevation to his current job was, after all, a reward for certain policies of which he and the Egyptian regime are aware. The day Butrus-Ghali defies Western—more specifically American—wishes will certainly be his last on the job. Nor do we hope for a UN secretary general who is not of Butrus-Ghali's type in the foreseeable future.

We do not think that Butrus-Ghali's being Orthodox makes him sympathetic to the Orthodox Serbians in their continuous and barbaric aggression against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We do not think that ethnic bias taints his position in the Muslim- Serbian strife.

The secretary general, an Arab, will understand the meaning of the Arab saying: "Do not flaunt your sins." Is there a worse sin against ethics, values, and human rights than to remain silent when you monitor and know, even beforehand, the massacres the Serbs are perpetrating against Bosnians, whose only crime was to want a separate home of their own.

We did not need to wait for the UN's silence about Serbian crimes to reach Izetbegovic's conclusion. We long ago made up our minds about the secretary general—an Arab, to our lasting shame.

Is not Butrus-Ghali the man who fully backs Western and U.S. persecution of Iraq, its people, and its children through an embargo of which innocent Iraqis bear the brunt? The real criminals are still free in Iraq, and living very well at the expense of their downtrodden people.

Is not Butrus-Ghali the man who condoned, and still condones, U.S.-Israeli pressure on a weak and defeatist Palestinian leadership? The latter is now set to cooperate in the liquidation of the Arab-Zionist conflict, an outcome that suits Western, particularly U.S., interests.

Is not Butrus-Ghali the man who condones Zionist crimes and the way in which the United States backs these crimes at the UN Security Council?

Would this secretary general ever tell us what he thinks when he sees UN resolutions trampled under the feet of the Zionists, the West, and the United States, particularly those resolutions concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict? These are resolutions that merely aim to deter Israel, psychologically at least, from attacking Arab children, women, and men.

We did not await Butrus-Ghali's silence about the Serbian barbarism in Bosnia-Herzegovina to say to the man: Speak up and walk out. He made up his mind a long time ago. Since the moment he got on the payroll of the United Nations he become an employee of the U.S. Administration. He takes his orders from the United States, particularly in matters involving the flogging of his fellow Arabs and Third World wretches, doomed to live under the U.S. thumb.

Butrus-Ghali came to office to follow orders. If he does not, he will lose his job. And he knows that. He would not want to trouble his remaining days with moral questions or ethical considerations that only bother prophets, and he is not one.

Official Rejects 'Peace by Installments'

JN3004120994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Syria today asked Israel to stop issuing mysterious statements and to declare its clear readiness to effect a comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan in order to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Speaking before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in Damascus today, an official Syrian source said that Syria is serious about its call for realizing comprehensive withdrawal in exchange for comprehensive peace, but will not accept a peace by installments.

The source said that Syria wants a just and comprehensive peace in the region and will support all efforts in that direction but will not accept any partial or separate solutions and will reject incomplete peace, a peace which comes by installments.

The Syria official [as heard] said: Peace cannot be divided. Either there is a just and comprehensive peace, giving everybody their full rights and ending the roots of tension in the region, or there is not. This is because a settlement that lacks these elements cannot survive and the region will continue to be primed for an explosion at any time.

The Syrian official ridiculed Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's statements in which he described making a decision to withdraw from the Golan as a painful decision, saying that the Golan's people are the ones who are pained because Israel occupied their land and homes. He said that occupation is an illegal act of aggression and it is the people of the Golan who should be feeling the pain because they were expelled from their land and homes. By withdrawing from the Golan, Israel is not offering concessions because it will be withdrawing from a territory which it does not own, he said, adding that the Golan has always been and will always be a Syrian Arab territory.

The Syrian official urged Christopher to play the role of an impartial mediator and a full partner and pressure Israel in order to state its readiness to implement UN resolutions and apply the land-for-peace principle.

The official said: All we want is the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which are supported by international norms and conventions. We want to regain our rights and this is legitimate.

The source reiterated Syria's rejection of secret talks and separate deals. The Syrian official asked: Why demand secret talks if the party calling for them is sincere in its intentions and desire to realize peace?

Citizens Support Policy To Restore Golan

JN0205135894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Occupied Golan—Syrian Arab citizens have declared their support for Syria's efforts to restore occupied Syrian Golan and to realize a full Israeli withdrawal from it.

In a statement issued yesterday and distributed in several cities and villages, the Syrian Arab citizens in the occupied Golan also expressed support for Syria's policy and principled stands toward the restoration of all of the Golan to Syria.

Paper Rejects 'Majdal Shams First' Proposal

JN0305085594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In the article "The Entire Golan", AL-BA'TH writes: Since the peace process kicked off in Madrid two and one-half years ago, our declared position has not changed. Inspired by the principles on which the peace process was launched, our position has been absolutely clear. In contrast, Israel has consistently sought to throw the peace process off course.

The Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has put forward fresh proposals under the heading "Majdal Shams First" along the lines of the Gaza-Jericho First. Syria will have nothing to do with a first or second. This is because if we engage in such phrases, it will lead to our engagement in the labyrinth of separate settlements and deals, something to which we are totally opposed as it threatens the foundations of the peace initiative itself.

Syria advocates a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories as the road leading to the peace of the brave. All that Syria wants is full peace as envisaged by the peace initiative.

Out of a commitment to a universal solution as laid out by the peace initiative, Syria wants the entire Golan Heights back and a full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. Any other options are a waste of time and an attempt to gain time and evade the requirements of peace. This is where the responsibility of the sponsors of the peace conference come in. It is a test of their ability to put an end to Israel's continuing maneuvers, AL-BA'TH concludes.

Israel Must Answer Syria's 'Substantive Queries'

JN0205152594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 2 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: During the talks held between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday, the president reiterated Syria's true desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the rights of all parties. This Syrian desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace was not conceived on the spur of the moment, but a strategy that has been adopted by Syria for many years. The objective of peace has been, and still is, the heart of Syria's policy. Syria has responded positively to every call or initiative to establish peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the return of Arab rights to their owners.

Since past initiatives have not achieved their objectives, and the last two and a half years of talks have not achieved peace thus far, we must lay the blame at the feet of the Israelis. Israel has foiled each and every call or initiative to achieve peace in the past, obstructed and hampered the current peace process, and prevented the achievement of any results worth mentioning.

Today, it seems there will be a new opportunity to push the peace process forward if Israel abandons its previous stands and deals positively with the substantive queries the U.S. secretary of state carried with him from Damascus. The queries deal with the basic issues and not with formalities and unimportant issues. We do not believe the bases of a just and comprehensive peace need further explanation or clarification, for the peace process is based on specific and clear principles; namely, the UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. When all the parties declare their adherence to these principles, then peace will be within reach. The more this or that party departs from these principles, the more dim become the prospects to achieve peace.

Syria has announced its stand toward peace. It is a stand based on the UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. This stand has not and will not change. By the same token, Syria is concerned about establishing the peace of the brave in the region, and is committed to the peace process until it achieves its goals; it adheres to its right to restore every inch of the Golan and the occupied territories.

Syria said it will not accept half solutions and partial withdrawals. Moreover, it did not take part in the Madrid conference and the Washington negotiations to bargain over its territory and rights, but joined the peace process out of its desire for a just and honorable peace and because the peace initiative is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which are in harmony with Syria's peace strategy.

Any peace that is not established on firm bases will be threatened with collapse at any time. Any peace that does not liberate all the occupied Arab territories and restore all the usurped rights cannot be established. It is either comprehensive peace or no peace. Withdrawal must also be full, for it is impossible to achieve peace with the continuation of occupation. Syria has sought and is still seeking a just and comprehensive peace that can last and hold. This peace, which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, is the only means to end the whirlpool of wars and aggression, and restore rights to their owners. If the other party is ready for such peace, it will find reciprocation from Syria. Only then, can the peace process proceed toward the objective aspired by the region and the world. The ball is still in the Israeli court. Israel must answer these substantive queries. And, in light of their answers, we can then talk about the progress or retreat of the peace process. The opportunity is still available to achieve the aspired peace.

'Deeds, Not Words' From Israel Sought

JN3004144094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expects his talks in Damascus to be serious and important. Syria firmly believes in a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, a peace that entrenches international law as the sole umbrella for this peace.

Syria is a basic party to the peace process. Without active Syrian participation, peace cannot prevail in the region. Still, Syria cannot be lured into half-way solutions or half-way settlements. Syria will not bargain on Arab rights and Arab lands. Syria sees no chance for peace unless this peace is just and comprehensive.

The U.S. secretary has much experience with Syria, where he has held lengthy talks several times. On more than one occasion, Syria has supported the U.S. Administration's efforts to relieve the peace process of the Israeli intransigence and behavior that Tel Aviv's rulers hoped would abort the entire process.

During the recent and historic Geneva meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, the U.S. President announced his open support for President al-Asad's call for an honorable peace of the brave. Christopher joined President Clinton in expressing the conviction that Syria's role is central to the success of the peace process. They repeatedly hailed Syria's constructive efforts.

It is an established fact that Israel has placed every possible obstacle in the way of a just and comprehensive solution of the region's crisis. Israel has sought to replace the Security Council resolutions, the principles of the Madrid conference, and the essence of the U.S. initiative itself with partial and phased settlements that do not meet minimum Arab aspirations and rights. To the contrary, these settlements entrench occupation and colonialism, and exasperate tension in the Middle East.

For more than two years, the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian delegations to the Washington negotiations were unable to convince Israel to discuss the subject of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Israel has openly rejected discussing the subject of withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, and has proposed an endless series of conditions, restrictions, and advance security arrangements in return for promises of partial withdrawals.

Israel did not discuss with the Arabs in Washington the realization of a just, comprehensive, and equitable peace. Instead, it discussed the imposition of its settlements, which seriously undermine the principles of just and comprehensive peace.

The Israeli position can be summed up as follows: Arabs should prove their peaceful intentions by concluding treaties, normalizing relations, opening borders, and subjecting their occupied territories to long-term Israeli control.

This is not peace. It can never lead to peace. It is an attempt by the occupier to entrench its occupation and impose its will. It is natural that Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan reject such an alleged and deceptive peace, and adhere to the Security Council resolutions and the Madrid conference agreements. One principle of a solid peace is that this peace should be equitable and just, and should return rights to their owners.

Israel's leaders are completely aware of Syria's positions. They know there will be no peace without Israel's complete withdrawal from the Golan and all the occupied territories. They also know Syria will in no way involve itself in partial settlements and compromises.

So, the proposals that Israel asked the U.S. secretary to bring with him will not be serious if they do not meet Syria's demand for full withdrawal. If peace can be realized through deeds, not words, then Syria is waiting for deeds, not words. These deeds include full acceptance of the Security Council resolutions, not proposals that circumvent these resolutions and evade the principle of full and rapid withdrawal, the dismantling of all settlements, and the evacuation of all settlers.

Syria supports just and comprehensive peace. It will continue to work tirelessly for just and comprehensive peace, but within the framework of international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Prime Minister Delivers Labor Day Speech

JN0105145094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 May 94

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of comrade leader President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the General Federation of Trade Unions held a big speech rally today on the occasion of world labor day, which falls on 1 May. The speech rally was held at Basil al-Asad Hall in al-Fayha' sports city in Damascus. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi stood in for the president. [passage omitted]

At the rally, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered a speech on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad in which he stressed that the Syrian working class is celebrating 1 May with confidence and optimism and with a clear and comprehensive vision of the future. He said:

[Begin al-Zu'bi recording] Brothers, it is my pleasure and privilege to represent President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] at this celebration and to convey to you the greetings of our leader, who devoted himself and his efforts to his people and his nation. He carried Syria's aspirations and the Arabs' issues on his strong and solid shoulders. He gave the workers and all the producers in this homeland most of his attention and support.

I also convey to you the president's congratulations on this great day, along with his wishes that are full of love and confidence, confidence that the innovative and productive human being will continue to be the basic pillar of any society aspiring for growth and development as well as confidence that people armed with national and pan-Arab awareness alone can see their way through all circumstances, events, and changes. They are the force that can overcome obstacles and challenge dangers. People who are armed with national and pan-Arab awareness can raise the edifice and work to increase production. They are the ones who make out of their self dependency and potential a launching pad to embody their will, strengthen their unity, reinforce their cause, promote their prestige, and confront challenges, no matter what form they take at any time. [end recording]

Al-Zu'bi spoke, in general, about the features of the stage the world is facing and the current status of Arab reality. He stressed the need to develop effective Arab solidarity and joint Arab action so this will be the condition for formulating a united pan-Arab stand, to which there is no alternative, in order to win the battle of peace and to achieve a just peace.

The prime minister then spoke about the determination of Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace as well as its determination not to relinquish any inch of its or any Arab territory. He said:

[Begin al-Zu'bi recording] The Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton [applause] showed how objective the Syrian stand is and how capable it is of defending the principles of pan-Arabism and Arab interests. The Geneva summit also showed how much attention the international community gives to Syria's role in this region.

Syria made the Geneva convention a forum for the national stand, the Arab right, pan-Arab dignity. The Geneva summit highlighted the continuous achievements of a big Arab leader, around the leadership of whom Syria's masses rally with strength, awareness, and persistence. The masses of the Arab nation surround leader al-Asad with their hopes, wishes, and pan-Arab feelings. Syria was and still is determined to continue the peace process, but with clarity, comprehensiveness without separate deals, and full response to the international community and its will and resolutions that cannot be subject to changes or falsification. A just and comprehensive peace that embodies the land for peace principle is the basis that enables the peace process to continue without obstacles toward its true objective. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi concluded his speech by renewing allegiance to big leader President Hafiz al-Asad. Al-Zu'bi expressed his sincerity toward President al-Asad's great policy and triumphant leadership and toward continuing the march of building and liberation, the objectives of which President al-Asad outlined with responsibility and seriousness. [passage omitted]

Russia Reportedly To Continue Weapons Supply

JN0105121094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 2 May 94 p 1

[Text] Circles close to Yasir 'Arafat have stated that the PLO leadership has received confirmation that Syria and Russia have reached an agreement under which Russia will continue to supply Syria with weapons provided that the price is paid at once.

Military Accord With Russia Seen as Serving Peace

PM2904131094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Russian Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Syrian-Russian Military Agreement Serves Peace"]

[Excerpts] Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Russian sources in Damascus told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the return of military cooperation between Syria and Russia will serve the issue of peace and stability in the Middle East and help to implement the UN and Security Council resolutions in order to achieve peace.

The Syrian and Russian sides signed a military cooperation agreement on the evening of the day before yesterday which political circles described as the first of its kind in this sphere since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the establishment of the Russian Federation. [passage omitted]

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolov [name as transliterated] stressed the day before yesterday that, while he understands the Israelis' concern over selling weapons to Syria, he confirms that the Syrians too are concerned over the sale of modern Western weapons to Israel. He added that, "if arms sale deals are not concluded with Syria, other states are bound to make offers. It is out of the question that the Russians are going to offer anything except the sale of defensive weapons and spare parts for weapons sold to Syria under previous deals."

India

Foreign Envoys Accuse Pakistan of Aiding 'Terrorism'

BK0305033394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The delegation of ambassadors of Islamic and Latin American countries, which concluded its four-day visit of Jammu and Kashmir, blamed Islamabad for aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir valley. Reports say that the ambassadors were convinced that Pakistan is behind terrorism in the state. The group has assessed that ordinary people in the state would like to see the end of violence and the situation brought back to normal. They were unhappy that the Hurriyyat Conference leaders changed the venue of the meeting at the last moment and that envoys could not meet them. However, the delegation was satisfied it could meet a cross section of the people. The delegation regretted that Amnesty International released its report on human rights situation in Punjab without going there, although it was permitted to send a team to the state.

Delhi Notes U.S. Announcement on Trade Law

BK0105130794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] The United States has put off by two months its decision to cite India and other countries for violation of Intellectual Property Rights under the trade law Special 301. The U.S. trade representative, Mr. Micky Kantor, made this announcement in Washington.

'Deep Concern' Expressed Over U.S. F-16 Sale to Pakistan

BK0205104794 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The government has made its position clear that India will support nonproliferation measures which are universal, comprehensive, nondiscriminatory, and verifiable. The minister of state for external affairs, R.L. Bhatia, informed the members in the lower house of parliament today that New Delhi has expressed deep concern to the U.S. Administration at the proposed transfer of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. He said during the visit to India, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr. Strobe Talbott, was told that the transfer of such sophisticated aircraft to Pakistan will necessitate that India reappraise its own defense capabilities and take adequate steps to safeguard its security.

'Super 301 Trade Law' Termed 'Economic Imperialism'

BK0205155294 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 2 May 94 p 6

[Editorial: "An Evil Omen"]

[Text] The indication given by the U.S. Administration that it will impose the "Special 301" trade law on India is proof of the U.S. mentality of economic imperialism. Overlooking the provisions of the "GATT" world trade agreement in making such a decision could ultimately lead to a new Cold War—a situation that could prove harmful to the United States—because no country can ignore its economic interests to defend U.S. economic and trade interests. It is true that the United States is the only superpower in the world today, but it would be an intolerable situation if it were to act unilaterally and resort to bullying tactics.

The U.S. Administration's endeavors to maintain its own economic prosperity following President Clinton's assumption of office is totally unjustifiable. There was a time when U.S. presidents—President Kennedy, for instance—tried to rid the world of poverty and tried to see that poor nations prospered along with the United States. Today, however, the Clinton Administration is hell-bent on acting arbitrarily. If the United States continues to act this way, it will loose the sympathy of other countries in the world. When this happens, ill will may develop and it is likely that developing countries may start to regard the United States as a hostile country. It is certain that if it looses the sympathy of the developing and poor countries, the United States will have difficulty finding markets for its products. It is no secret that the United States is currently facing a recession, and many East Asian countries and Japan are not proving to be suitable markets for the United States. In fact, it is impossible for the United States to act arbitrarily simply because it is a leading country.

The U.S. argument regarding the application of "Special 301" to India is that the Indian Government has not taken effective steps on copyright and patent issues. This argument is not completely correct. The truth is that the Indian Government has taken considerable and effective steps regarding copyright and patent issues. Because of these steps, there is no logic in imposing the "Special 301" law on the pretext of "inaction" on the issue. Of course, it is only right that those who want to get rich by copying U.S. products should be restrained; no encouragement should be given to theft and copying. When it is amply clear that the Indian Government is taking every step to curtail this, however, the United States should refrain from adopting aggressive postures.

The U.S. Administration's decision to brand China as the biggest thief of U.S. products reflects the imperialistic mentality of the United States. Undoubtedly, the theft and copying of products by some people does not warrant declaring the entire country a thief, and punishing or imposing sanctions against it is not natural justice. If the United States tries to defend its economic and trade interests by wielding a "big stick," such action could not be called appropriate.

As far as patent rights are concerned, the United States has enforced a "product patent" policy under which any scientist or entrepreneur has the right to produce and sell special products. Without permission, nobody can produce or manufacture that product. India has a "production system" patent policy. Under the Indian policy, no other person can adopt a patented production system, but the same products can be manufactured by a different production system. The United States wants India to enforce the same "product patent" policy that is prevalent in the United States. It is clear that the Americans want to become the owners of products developed from hidden natural wealth or by scientific techniques. Accordingly, the United States has enforced a "product patent" policy. If the United States does not want to share its intellectual, scientific, and technical knowledge with all of humanity, it could only be described as anti-humanist.

It would be better if the United States reconsidered its patent policy. If the United States wants to remain the leading nation in the world, it will have to share its intellect and skill with the entire world and all of humanity. Neither the United States nor any country can claim to be a superpower if it does not show magnanimity. If the United States tries to remain a superpower by adopting bullying tactics or starting an arms race, it will earn only ill will—not sympathy—which will create economic as well as political problems for itself. The indications that the United States will bring India under "Special 301" are not only a bad omen, they strengthen apprehensions regarding its intentions at a time when the prime minister's U.S. visit is only a few days away. Maybe the "Special 301" question has been raised in an attempt to pressure India regarding the signing of Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Raising this issue on the eve of the prime minister's U.S. visit, though, cannot be taken as a positive gesture. It would be better if the United States came to understood fully that India will never yield to such pressure tactics.

Spokesman Clarifies Report on Capping Missile Plan

BK0205150294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 94 p 22

[Text] New Delhi, April 20 (HTC)—In a cautiously worded, handwritten note, an official spokesperson of the Government of India today sought to clarify the report on the Agni missile plan being temporarily capped, which appeared in this newspaper today.

While describing the report as "unfounded and baseless", the note asserted that "after the recent successful flight of Agni, all the objectives set for this mission have been achieved". This, in fact, suggests that the project is being abandoned altogether, whereas the HT report had only said it was being put on hold for the present.

While not contradicting that the DRDO [Defense Research and Development Organization] had been denied the [Indian Rupees] Rs 5 crore it had sought for conducting three more Agni test flights, the official note says that fund requirements of different departments are decided "in relation to progress of various projects. Individual scheme-wise allocation is not undertaken at the Government level".

Rao Comments on 'Capping'

BK0305100394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that there will not be any capping of Agni nor India would accept a regional nonproliferation treaty. Replying to the debate on the working of the Defense Ministry in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that New Delhi will not budge even an inch on India's policy that the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] should be universal and nondiscriminatory. The prime minister asserted that the country will continue to have optimum defense preparedness and no one should tell us what our defense requirement should be.

Referring to the controversy over the recently-held London talks, he said we should not refuse talks, as it is important to apprise the other party of our view on this issue. He categorically reiterated that there is no pressure from the United States for capping our missile programs. On the visit of the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr. Talbott, to New Delhi, he said the NPT was not discussed. Mr. Rao said that the NPT itself is under review and India has demanded that it should be radically changed in its spirit to make it more acceptable to Third World countries.

On Agni, he said it is an experiment and not a missile program. He asserted that it will not be stopped under any conditions. He said it is absurd to say such a program of national importance will be stopped for want of 50 crore rupees. He said that the data from recent experiment of recent technology is being analyzed and it will be about a year to complete the study. The prime minister announced that the government's decision to set up a National Security Council, which will examine the total security need of the country. [sentence as heard]

Assessing the present world security scenario, Mr. Rao said in the post-Cold War era developing nations have to be more vigilant. He hailed the international treaty banning the chemical weapons as a major step toward disarmament, which is universal and nondiscriminatory. He said the Nonaligned Movement has greater relevance today for putting forward the developing countries' views.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the prime minister's clarification over the Agni program, most opposition members staged a walkout from the house.

Editorial Criticizes Opposition Stand on GATT Accord

BK0305112394 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 21 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial: "The False Propaganda of the Opposition Parties]

[Text] The opposition political parties believe they have been able to intensify the movement against India's signing of the GATT agreement. This impression is correct, as their movement is gradually gaining strength. This strength is not based on logic, however; it is based on the power of the throat. It is with the force of their voice that the opposition parties have severely shaken all parts of India from Kashmir down to Kanniyakumari [Tamil Nadu]. Their thundering sound was heard mainly in West Bengal. Like the clouds that precede a rainstorm if they encounter a depression, the thunder clouds of their anti-Dunkel movement weakened once they crossed the coasts of West Bengal and entered other parts of the country. Thus the tiger was converted into a mouse.

There is nothing to be surprised about. Though the opposition claims they have the people's support, they know very well that public opinion is not in their favor. Neither the number of people attending their rallies at the Calcutta Brigade Ground nor the extent of the anarchy let loose by the people in the streets of West Bengal proves this party has public support. It only speaks to the organizational strength of the party; that is, its capacity to gather people. It is not a great feat for Jyoti Basu [West Bengal chief minister] or Subhas Chakrabarty [West Bengal minister of sports and youth services], who are in power in West Bengal, to display this strength. These anti-GATT rallies in the state, under the patronage of the state government, are just meetings intended to make noise, similar to those held on other occasions. It is not a major achievement to gather people for such meetings in a densely populated country like ours, particularly when holidays are declared in courts and offices and the required number of buses and trucks are provided for participants. This advantage available in West Bengal is not found in other parts of the country. This hue and cry is being raised in the name of the general masses, but they do follow the leftist line at all.

Why should they think so? The opposition parties have been launching propaganda against the Dunkel proposals for a long time. Despite this, the general public does not give any heed to their propaganda. Why should they? The people have come to realize that slogans are the only driving force behind this hue and cry. Besides, they have come to learn that this is false propaganda and that false statements are being presented to the people in fancy language. What is happening in the fields and in the parliament is not publicity; it is false propaganda. These political parties claimed that if India signed the Marrakech agreement, in a few moments the price of medicine would increase several fold and people in the villages would not be able to pluck the leaves of their neem trees, adding that U.S. permission would be required to pluck these leaves. These parties further claimed that representatives of international agencies would grab paddy seedlings from the farmers as they went to plant them. They issued many similar warnings. If we listen to all this, it looks as if a grandmother is trying to frighten a child by telling him about witches. The false stories about witches are similar to those of the opposition parties in their propaganda against the Dunkel proposals and the Marrakech agreement.

The truth is that a total of 105 countries met and finalized this agreement. In doing so, every country had to give up some of the demands they had submitted. None of the states were able to achieve everything they wanted from this agreement. If a comparative study is made of the profits and losses, it will be seen that India will not lose but will gain from this accord. The valuable information provided by the commerce minister in this regard is a clear yardstick for the gains India will achieve from this accord. Those whose only intention is play politics will not heed these valuable words. Since the Rajya Sabha went into session, these political parties have started jumping up and down in the house. They are raising a hue and cry alleging that the country's independence is being sold out. They are disrupting the proceedings of the assembly. This clearly shows that their condemnation or criticism does not have any healthy objective. It aims only to fulfill cheap political goals.

The leftist political parties in the country and like-minded intellectuals are solely responsible for this narrow-minded, illogical, and damaging propaganda. These leftist political parties have committed several mistakes in the past. During World War II, they distanced themselves from the independence struggle and directly obstructed this movement. They did not accept Subash Chandra [independence leader also known as Netaji Basu] as a patriot; they branded him a traitor. They have long been bitter critics of private capital and foreign industrial organizations. They have been forced to admit all of their mistakes one by one. Now their spokesman is paying tribute to Gandhi and Nehru, and they have become followers of Netaji Basu. In recent speeches their leaders have appeared eager for foreign technology and capital. The day will come when they will also admit their mistakes regarding the Dunkel proposals and GATT, but history will not pardon these sinners.

In the meantime, the Bharatiya Janata Party's [BJP] condition has become critical because of its involvement in this false propaganda. On the issue of whether to support or oppose the Dunkel proposals, the BJP has decided to oppose them. There is nothing to be surprised about. Behind its cloak of championing the cause of Hinduism, this party is also a leftist party. Vishwanath Pratap Singh's [Janata Dal leader] stand on this issue is different. He has stated that there is no alternative to signing the GATT treaty. Will Jyoti Basu listen to his "friend" today?

U.S. Sanctions Said 'Minor Inconvenience' for Space Program

BK0205145494 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] The two-year sanctions imposed by the US in May, 1992, on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) created only minor inconvenience and that none of the country's space programme schedules were affected, Mr R Kasturirangan, new chairman of ISRO said here on Friday.

"The sanctions will be automatically revoked and that we have no information on the thinking of the United States government," ISRO chief added. The sanctions will be expiring next month.

Even after the US clamped sanctions on ISRO and Glavkosmos, the Russian rocket manufacturing company for signing the cryogenic engine deal, India was able to launch two satellites—Insat-2A and Insat-2B and two more in the same series—Insat-2C and 2D are on schedule. "We were able to procure components from other sources," Mr Kasturirangan said.

Though the sanctions are still in force, ISRO and Glavkosmos renegotiated the cryogenic engine deal last month, whereby the Russian company would be shipping seven engines at no fresh cost to ISRO. Apparently, the Russian government got the deal cleared by the US State Department.

The countdown for the fourth development test flight of Augmented satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV-D4) has begun and is expected to tae off during the early hours on May 4,1994.

Foreign Investors Pledge $3 Billion for Mining Industry

BK0205160694 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Apr 94 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, April 25—Nearly three billion US dollars worth of foreign investment has already been promised in the minerals sector in the country, Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here today.

Inaugurating a three-day international round table conference on foreign investment in exploration and mining in India, Mr Mukherjee said the Government had taken major steps to encourage direct foreign investment in the newly opened minerals sector after the amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act.

Fifteen major minerals and 21 minor minerals are now open for investments in mining and exploration by foreign investors with equity participation upto 51 per cent, he said.

The Commerce Minister maintained that to encourage direct foreign investment the Government has brought about major changes in fiscal, industrial, trade and import-export policies, and opening up of the mining sector is only a part of the ongoing process.

Mr Mukherjee assured the foreign participants, representing the world's largest mining companies from about 10 nations, that present national policies were based on consensus and did not depend on changes in the political leadership. "India's democracy is transparent, agile and vibrant supported by a vigilant press and independent judiciary", he added.

He reminded the prospective foreign investors that way back when Indian banks were nationalised, foreign banks were not touched at that time. India has never failed in its debt repayment upto now and situation has become much better with regard to foreign exchange reserves, he added.

The Minister said the Indian economy is the world's seventh largest with the third largest pool of technical manpower and professional managers. India has a large network of railways and seaports and other infrastructure facilities - like the powerful stock exchange system with 25 stock markets and 6,250 registered companies, which are available for collaboration.

He said already seven power projects are being set up in the country by foreign investors. Nearly 34 industrial sectors are open for foreign investment and collaboration.

Welcoming the delegates, Minister of State for Mines Balram Singh Yadav said the objective of the three-day conference is to familiarise investors with the mining potential offered by India and to present a forum for interaction between investors and the Central Government, the State Governments, the public and private sector units, Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and other agencies concerned with the minerals sector.

The Minister said potential areas for mining ventures are where exploration activities during the last four decades have resulted in identification of large resources, specially of iron ore, bauxite, chromite and manganese, as also several medium and small deposits of other mineral commodities. These resources have not yet been mined to their fullest extent largely for want of capital and appropriate technology and provide a ready opportunity for profitable investment in the mining sector, he added.

He maintained that over 94 per cent of India's area has already been mapped by the Geological Survey of India so that preliminary data is available for further development. Technical consultancy and geological services are also provided in the area of mining and preparation of geological plans by the Indian Bureau of Mines on a commercial basis.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr I. G. Thingran, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, said in the new deregulated environment which is investment friendly foreign investors would find great scope for investment in exploration and mining in India.

Many countries like China, France and Australia are already cooperating with India in the mining sector, he said.

Iran

Croatian Prime Minister Concludes Talks

Briefs Majlis Speaker

LD3004184694 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—If the Serbs do not abide by their commitments, lasting peace will not return to the Balkans, Croatian Premier Nikica Valentic told Majlis speaker 'Ali Nateq-Nuri here Saturday. Valentic briefed Nateq-Nuri on latest developments in the aggressed Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and termed as "good" relations between Muslims and Croats.

The hojjat ol-eslam said in reply that like the Zionists, the two main characteristics of the Serbs are genocide and expansionism, and they will not be satisfied only with Bosnia.

He deplored the inability of international organizations in solving the Bosnian crisis and called for lifting of the United Nations arms embargo against the republic.

On relations between Iran and Croatia, Nateq-Nuri termed as "positive" the areas of cooperation and called for full-fledged expansion of bilateral ties.

Valentic arrived here last night.

Confers With Habibi

LD3004215694 Tehran IRNA in English 2139 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Croatian Prime Minister Nikica Valentic in his meeting with the First Deputy President Hasan Habibi here Saturday voiced the interest of his country to expand relations with Iran in political, and economic areas including ship building, tranportation, oil and banking issues.

In the meeting which was also attended by Roads and Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan and his Croatian counterpart Ivica Mudrinic and other officials of the two countries, Valentic condemned the crimes of Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina [B-H] and emphasized on the sovereignty and independence of this country.

Habibi said disputes between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia will help the Serbs to engage in more aggression and added that Iran welcomes the fact that the problems between the two countries are being settled.

He criticized international cricles for their indifference towards the incidents in Bosnia-Herzegovina and emphasized the cooperation of Muslims with the people of that country.

Habibi referred to the cooperation of Iran with the former eastern bloc countries espcailly the Balkan region and he said the economic future of the region will be pending collaboration with the Middle East and especially Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran can operate as the connection road of this region with Central Asia and the Middle East," he added.

Habibi emphasized tripartite cooperations between Iran. B-H and Croatia and it was agreed that discussions would continue in fields of economy, banking, transport, ship building, as well as political, scientific and cultural committee with the collaboration of related ministries.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0105105794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the Croatian prime minister Nikica Valentic today.

At the meeting, the president stressed the need for strengthening solidarity and further cooperation among the states in the Balkan region in order to confront aggressors and to consolidate peace and stability in that region. Condemning the aggression of the Serbs against Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said: Undoubtedly the fates of the Balkan region states are tied together, and peace and friendship in the region is to the benefit of all those states, just as cooperation and unity in the face of any aggression and sectarianism are to the detriment of enemies and aggressors and also guarantee the future stability and tranquillity of the region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered the grounds for cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Croatia to be positive, and expressed the hope that the results of talks between the Croatian delegation and our country's officials smooth the way for further expansion of economic, commercial, and political ties between the two countries.

During the meeting, where First Deputy President Habibi was also present, the Croatian prime minister, declaring his country's support for the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, described the policy of the Serbian forces - who are supported by the superpowers - as aggressive and said: In history Croats and Bosnians have fought side by side against aggressors and have always lived in harmony. He added: The Croatian Government will make all efforts to eliminate the slight disputes between the Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina, since peace and stability in that region will be to the benefit of the two nations and other states.

The Croatian prime minister considered the results of his visit to Iran to be a turning point in the bilateral ties and expressed the hope that through the normalization of the conditions in the Balkan region and the punishment of the Serbian aggressors in that region through international forums the trend of expansion of ties between the Balkan states - especially Croatia - with Iran is accelerated.

At the meeting the Croatian prime minister extended an official invitation from his country's president to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit that country. The president, accepting the invitation, expressed the hope to visit Croatia and Bosnia at an opportune moment when the conditions are normalized in those two countries.

Concludes Agreements, Departs

LD0105165294 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Croatian Prime Minister Valentic concluded a three-day visit to Tehran and left today after signing several memoranda of understanding on cooperation in cultural, transport, and commercial fields. First Deputy President Habibi accompanied the Croatian prime minister to the airport.

Prior to departing the Croatian prime minister told our correspondent that if the international community continues to neglect its duties, the Serbs will expand their aggression to Kosovo, Sandzak, and Macedonia.

Referring to the recent agreement between the Croats and Muslims to form a united front, the Croatian official said that Croatia guarantees to maintain security of the route for the transport of food and medicine to Bosnia.

Taherian Appointed Ambassador to Bosnia

LD0305100094 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Foreign Ministry here Tuesday appointed Mohammad Taherian as Iran's first extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary representative to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The appointment was made at the proposal of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and approval of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Taherian formerly held various positions including Iran's charge d'affaires to Mexico City and to Afghanistan.

Bosnian Offers Services of Displaced 'Experts'

LD3004194094 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Economy Minister of Bosnia Herzegovina [B-H] Faruk Smjalbegovic met Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Morteza Mohammad-Khani to discuss cooperation between the two countries.

Smajlbegovic said most of the economic centers of B-H have been ruined in the war or are in the hands of Serbs, while most of the experts have been forced to leave their homeland.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran can utilise the services of these Bosnian experts in different fields especially power and generation projects.

He said B-H now has need for oil and energy, and that for the time being the refineries of B-H are in the hands of the Serb aggressors.

The visiting official said Bosnia needs raw materials for production and foodstuffs to ensure life.

The Iranian minister, saying the Islamic Republic has supported B-H in all areas welcomed the cooperation of Bosnian experts, and said it would depend on the establishment of a joint commission between the two countries in various areas.

Mohammad-Khani stressed on trade ties between Iran and Bosnia, and said the services of Bosnian experts can be utilised in the agricultural and industrial areas.

President Advises Vietnam To Maintain Independence

LD3004210594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] In a banquet given in honor of the Vietnamese president on Saturday night, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a speech in which he described Vietnam as a country which enjoys a very good position in the minds of the Iranian people. He added: The period during which you defended your country and the acts of heroism undertaken by the Vietnamese people in the face of Western invaders have reached epic status in Iran. Your successes warmed the hearts of independence-seeking peoples throughout the world and you gave valuable historic lessons to humanity.

Our country's president expressed the hope that, during the period of reconstruction, too, the Vietnamese nation would continue to pursue the correct and independent path it has embarked on towards reforming its economic structure and that it would serve as a good model for the world's other countries with the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and through the exchange of experiences between the two revolutionary nations.

The Vietnamese president, for his part, delivered a speech in which he praised the Islamic Republic of Iran and the gains made by our country.

Vietnamese President Concludes Visit

LD0205153894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Iran and Vietnam will practice cooperation after signing three memoranda of understanding in the diplomatic, scientific, educational, economic, commercial, and agricultural fields this afternoon.

At the end of his three-day visit to Tehran Mr. Le Duc Anh, the Vietnamese president, said this afternoon that he has held successful talks on all matters with the Iranian authorities and that the two countries are also to practice international and regional diplomatic cooperation.

The Vietnamese president added: By forming a joint economic committee, the two countries will speedily follow up the expansion of ties.

The Vietnamese president said: Vietnam utilizes Iran's good and successful experience in rebuilding the damage caused in the war against America and is grateful for the clear instructions of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on that score.

Thanking the revolutionary Iranian government and nation for their hospitality, the Vietnamese president said, referring to the manner of cooperation among Third World countries to overcome their problems: Through regional and international cooperation, particularly the Non-aligned Conference, we could help global peace and stability.

During the ceremony to see off the Vietnamese president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: There are no limits on cooperation between Iran and Vietnam. We agree on all matters.

Failed Rescue Anniversary Recalls U.S. 'Evils'

NC0205180594 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Apr 94 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The United States Is Still the Mother of All Evils of the Century"]

[Text] Today, 25 April, is the 14th anniversary of the disgraceful U.S. defeat at Tabas in the desert. In addition to being a testimonial to U.S. military ineptitude, this incident also brought home the reality that the U.S. hierarchy are savage aggressive individuals who trample on all international standards in order to attain their own illicit interests and do not obey even a single law. What has occurred all over the world for the past 14 years merely affirms the daily growth of their savagery.

The record of U.S. brutality in Vietnam, the deployment of its troops in Panama, Iraq, Somalia, its multifaceted support for the Zionists' atrocities in occupied Palestine, and the U.S. pressure on the United Nations to remain silent in the face of the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, all these are evidence of U.S. barbarianism in past years. On the one hand, it professes to be a champion of human rights but with the other, it crushes human beings all over the world under its military boots. This is the true nature of the United States and of all of today's domineering powers.

The most serious and appropriate approach to such bestiality is the one the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted toward the United States. The occupation of the U.S. den of spies in Tehran by the student followers of the imam's line and the categorical stance taken by Imam Khomeyni against the U.S. Government on this incident and in all other cases is exactly the kind of treatment that the Americans merit.

Even today the Muslim nations who wish to live in freedom, who do not want their rights to be transgressed, who do not want their women and children to be massacred by the malicious enemies of Islam, have no recourse but to take up a serious and decisive struggle against the United States.

"The United States is the mother of all the evils of the century." The truth of this profound statement by Imam Khomeyni becomes clearer with the passage of every moment. What is happening today throughout the Islamic world from Bosnia-Herzegovina to Kashmir, from Palestine to the Caucasus and Afghanistan, is all under the auspices of the criminal United States, the United Nations is a mere instrument in its hands.

Therefore, in order to lift the arms embargo from the Bosnian Muslims, to halt the Serbs' aggression in Gorazde, and to quell all the trouble making against the Muslims, one should fight against the United States and scorch the roots of its mischief-mongering. It is an immutable reality that "the United States is the mother of all evils of the century."

Commentary on 'New Crisis' in Tehran-London Ties

LD0205133294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 2 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A new crisis has developed in Tehran-London ties following London's unfounded claims that Iran is backing the Irish Republican Army, IRA. The crisis in Iran-Britain diplomatic ties assumed a wider dimension when the Iranian Foreign Ministry—in response to the accusations levelled by certain London officials against Iran—handed over a protest note to the British charge d'affaires in Tehran, Geoffrey James.

In other sharp reactions, the Foreign Ministry's director general for Western Europe, Mr. 'Ali Ahani, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Britain, Mr. Gholam Reza Ansari, while rejecting Britain's claims in this connection, considered as irresponsible that country's action, which has no evidence.

Tehran-London ties have always undergone fluctuations during the 15-year period since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. As the record of these relations indicate, though Iran-Britain ties have been quite widespread on the economic front, such ties on the political dimension and within the diplomatic framework have always been influenced by various factors. Britain's constant siding with the U.S. in countering the Islamic revolution and pursuing policies aimed at isolating Iran on the international scene, as well as Britain's support for Salman Rushdie, the apostate writer of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," are all factors worth pondering in this regard.

At present, too, it seems that by resorting to the old tactics in a new shape, under the title of concern over Iran's covert links with the IRA, British officials are trying to (experience) a new cold wave in the two countries' ties. Despite this, political observers believe that, though the outcome of the present crisis in Tehran-London ties is not predictable, it is possible that the London officials' insistence on continuing irresponsible conduct may neutralize the efforts that the two countries have made in opening a new phase in relations since last fall.

Tehran officials undoubtedly consider the recent act of British officials as being devoid of any logical justification and unacceptable, because, before reflecting London's concern over Tehran-IRA ties, it is considered as a reflection of Britain's domestic policy considerations and can only please those who want to benefit from the two countries' differences. This is a point not missed by the British press and several analysts have described the recent British act as a tool for justifying its defeat in the Northern Ireland peace talks. According to these analysts, British officials are now trying to link Ireland's republicans to a foreign country in order to deviate public opinion and prepare the ground for the success of the next round of the peace talks.

British Policy on Northern Ireland Assailed

LD0205210094 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] London, May 2, IRNA—The recent maneuvers of Britain and its imaginary claims of Iran's links with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), perhaps more than anything else indicates the problem with the government in London is afflicted in relation to Northern Ireland.

The British Government, in order to divert public attention from its failure to settle the Northern Ireland issue, does not refuse to engage in any trick and propaganda artifice in and outside Britain.

A glance at the past history of clashes in Ireland has symptoms of the defeat of British policies, both military and political, in this region and the continuous notoriety earned by responsible persons in England.

The shooting of any person suspected of terrorist operations is one sample of these policies. Perhaps the most conspicuous sample of British policy was the killing of three Irishmen suspected of membership in IRA in Gibraltar by British security forces in 1988.

After killing them, the British police found out that the three Irishmen were not busy laying bombs as suspected but in fact had no weapons with themselves.

The accident caused the families of the three murdered persons to file a complaint at European courts against the British Government for trampling on the second paragraph of the human rights convention of Europe.

The British Government does not have a good record at the European courts and since 1950, of the 52 files presented against Britain, the country has been condemned in 30 cases.

On the other hand in the opinion of many non-aligned observers the government of Britain has itself been one of the main causes of political chaos and violent actions in Northern Ireland. The secret researches performed by the government have also proved this true.

For example, the daily 'INDEPENDENT' last June disclosed certain aspects of these secret researches which portrayed the depth of discrimination against those Catholics of Northern Ireland who want independence from British colonialism.

On the basis of this report London's political-military control of Northern Ireland, has over the past 20 years led to gross inequality and the strengthening of the Protestants who support prolongation of British rule.

Statistical comparison between the two societies of Northern Ireland indicate high level of unemployment among Catholics at a rate that is twice as much as Protestants, in addition to striking differences in housing, hygiene, and education among the two groups.

In the opinion of the writers of this report, this is the direct result of the deliberate policies of London for enacting discrimination against those who want an end to its presence in the northern part of Ireland.

On the other hand despite the claims of the British Government for stopping clashes and armed encounters among the two groups in Northern Ireland, the statistics of those killed in these incidents indicate another bitter truth.

Statistics show that for the past seven years until 1993 about 220 Protestants were killed by the republicans. This is while over the same period 368 republican Catholics were killed by armed groups who are advocates of English rule.

The British Government while showing itself inclined to peace to end the bloody clashes in Ireland has in fact, on many an occasion entered into coalition with rightist parties that are opposed to negotiations with the Catholics, and has considered many concessions for the Protestants in controlling Northern Ireland.

For instance, British Prime Minister John Major late last summer, in order to benefit from the support of the extremist Irish Protestant parties in the parliament and specifically the Ulster Unionists Workers Party, granted them many privileges including the establishment of a special selection committee in parliament.

This issue at that time caused independent observers to raise objections and voice concern over the grave results of this political give-and-take and the probable invalidity of the present political agreements between England and the Republic of Ireland in connection with the future of Northern Ireland.

According to observers consider the only probable way for creating a stable peace in Northern Ireland is for the British Government to stop its discriminative policies against Catholics and participate in direct negotiations to be attended by all sides involved [sentence as received].

London for various reasons has thus far evaded this issue and occasionally by bringing up diversions and imaginary claims has tried to mislead public opinion in and outside the country especially among the powerful Irish community in the United States.

Last year, too, an independent committee for investigating the problem of Northern Ireland named UPSAL had said that any peace agreement in relation to Northern Ireland without considering the Catholics and Protestants as equals and with equal rights for declaring their positions was doomed to fail.

Daily Interviews German Ambassador on Ties

NC0105203794 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 26 Apr 94 p 8

[Interview with Reinhold Schenk, German ambassador to Iran, by unidentified HAMSHAHRI correspondent in Tehran "on the eve of Tehran Mayor Karbaschi's visit to Germany"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [HAMSHAHRI] Why is it that Germany, with its highly developed economy and resources, finds it so difficult to accommodate foreign refugees while we have sheltered several million and have not encountered any racial problems? Does affluent Germany not have our level of economic and cultural prowess?

[Schenk] There are various beliefs prevailing in Germany. One school of thought is that we should forge ahead as a multicultural society, and that is why we should accept those who are in Germany into our society. We can give them German or dual nationality; and steps have been taken in this regard.

There are others who believe that we have a long way to go to a multicultural or multinational society. However our policy is to seek a middle course. We have accepted the foreigners who have resided in Germany for many years and we have bestowed legal rights on them. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] Has Germany made any effort—as it should—to boost cooperation with Iran?

[Schenk] Under its First 5-Year Plan, Iran cooperated extensively with Germany. I should state that the credit envisaged for Iran, and the insurance that had been approved by the Hermes Insurance Company is the third highest after Russia and Brazil. Iran, where Germany has accepted a guarantee of 14 billion German marks, is in third place.

I believe we do have quite extensive mutual cooperation. At present, talks are under way regarding repayments and extending the reimbursement period. The main issue in these talks is to extend the period for repayment of short-term loans. There are no particular problems with regard to the repayment of long-term loans.

Cultural exchanges are also in progress. For example, the third Iran-Germany session on human rights under Islam and the West will be held in Iran next spring. Larijani's visit to Germany was very successful. He has much credibility as far as we are concerned and is an articulate person. He met some old acquaintances in the course of his visit, such as Hans Dietrich-Genscher, whom he knows very well. Talks were held with Larijani on all bilateral issues. In addition, regional issues, and matters pertaining to Central Asia, the Persian Gulf, and the Arab-Israeli issue were discussed, in addition to an extensive range of other issues.

[HAMSHAHRI] Regarding the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, some people believe that Germany's swift recognition of Croatia and Slovenia aggravated civil strife in Yugoslavia. In addition, what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not concealed from the eyes of the Germans. Has Germany, with its 80 million people and such a high level of economic potential [preceding word in English] performed its human obligations to the optimum?

[Schenk] The present situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not just a source of shame for Germany but the whole world. Germany has extended humanitarian assistance so far; we are among the biggest helpers of Bosnia-Herzegovina. From the legal point of view, it is not possible for us to intervene militarily in accordance with our Constitution. As far as intervening under the NATO aegis is concerned, that depends on the Security Council.

However, terminating the conflict by military means seems almost impossible. That is why we and other Europeans are seeking to end the conflict by political means. Some useful measures have been taken in this regard.

[HAMSHAHRI] Do you have any particular opinion you wish to express?

[Schenk] I think it is possible to live a comfortable life in Iran. Tehran is a progressive city and one can live here safely. Foreigners are residing here happily. Tehran is a very clean city with far more security than many capitals of the world and is teeming with life.

Relations With Germany Face Many Obstacles

NC0205194494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Apr 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "Obstacles to Cooperation with Germany"]

[Text] There are very clear reasons to broaden relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Germany. The latter does not have a colonialist past and now that it is entering the international arena, it is seeking a reliable partner in the Middle East.

In order to resolve its economic problems, Germany uses its own distinctive policy which is not necessarily affiliated to U.S. policies. Germany is Iran's top trading partner and has assisted in the training of experts in various fields.

However, there are some obstacles that, if eliminated, would clear the path for better cooperation between the two countries:

1. The balance of trade between the two countries is not equal, Germany's exports to Iran far exceed Iran's exports to Germany. In 1993, Iran experienced problems due to a drop in its foreign exchange earnings. Germany's exports fell to 4 billion marks and Iran's exports were only worth 1.5 billion marks.

German officials complain of the increase in the volume of trade between Iran and the United States in their meetings with the Iranian press. Our response is that we have also complained about the increase in American exports but one must note that the balance of trade between the two countries is to Iran's benefit. This means that the sale of Iranian oil to American companies is far greater than our imports from American companies. If the Germans are complaining about this state of affairs, it would be better if they increased their purchases of Iranian oil and steered the balance of trade between the two countries toward a more equitable level.

The Germans contend that the purchase of oil is in the hands of private companies and that the government has no control and no policy in this regard. If this is merely a propagandistic allegation, it is not right to make these remarks regarding such a serious matter. If this is true, then is it to be believed that European governments do not have any jurisdiction on such basic decisions? This matter will be assessed at a later date.

2. The German Government has abandoned some of its valid , but uncompleted, contracts, such as the Bushehr nuclear power plant and its affiliated fertilizer project after 90 percent of the work was completed. Germany's reasons for such a breach of contract are not acceptable. Iran is a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspection teams have repeatedly visited Iran and endorsed Iran's performance in this regard. Meanwhile the Israeli regime has not signed the NPT and has proclaimed that it has nuclear weapons but no one dares complain to them. Thus, Germany's breach of bilateral contracts will remain a dark spot on Iranian-German relations.

3. Germany's conduct has not been very just or humanitarian in some cases in the Middle East. For example, during the Iraqi war against Iran, the Germans supplied chemical weapons to Iraq and its experts assisted Iraq in extending the range of its missiles, resulting in greater casualties for the Iranian side. The Germans did not pay any reparations to Iran, but when similar missiles were fired upon occupied Palestine during the Iraqi war against Kuwait, the German foreign minister himself went to Tel Aviv and paid 200 million marks as reparations. Such conduct is unacceptable.

In response, the Germans say they were the first European country to condemn Iraqi aggression against Iran, and this is true, but it does not compensate for Iran's losses in the war.

4. The Germans display sensitivity regarding terrorist groups but do not pay much attention to the fact that they are nurturing an anti-Iranian terrorist group in their midst. In 1986 Mas'ud Rajavi admitted to the killing of 15,000 Iranians in an interview with FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE. The Germans say that their criterion is that they should not commit terrorist actions on German soil. This is while the Monafeqin [pejorative term for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] recruit members from German soil and carry out terroristic operations in Iran through the Iraqi government. In addition, Germany is not prepared to treat all terrorist groups which are active against European governments in the same manner and refuses to grant them asylum.

As far as the controversy on human rights is concerned, Europeans take the liberty of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries except in the case of terrorist activity, when they say as long as terrorist actions are not committed on their soil, it does not matter. Everyone knows that terrorist actions are carried out in that particular country. These double-sided policies are not acceptable for the broadening of Iranian-German relations.

Lebanon, Syria Seen 'Reining In' Palestinians

NC0105210594 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 20 Apr 94 p 12

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Distancing the Palestinians from Proximity to Israel"]

[Text] It appears that the way is being paved for the final compromise in the Middle East; and efforts are being made to remove obstacles in the path of peace and tranquillity for these regimes. Even though it is too early to venture anything on the final compromise among the regional countries, there is evidence of conditions being prepared for peace and amity.

For many years Egypt and Jordan have moved away from the orbit of rivalry and struggle against the Zionists. Lebanon was forced to oppose Israel, because of its emulation of Syria and the dynamic activities of Hizballah. Beirut will only play the tune of opposition to the Zionists for as long as Syria wants it to, and the duration of its struggle and the military operations of the Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon will be governed by this same logic.

Certain steps are being taken by Beirut and Damascus that indicate that the way is being paved for normalization of conditions in a region which had been uncontrollable and unbridled as regards anti-Zionist activities. From time to time, it is announced at special junctures that Warren Christopher is going to visit the Middle East. At the same time, Jordan has banned Hamas' activities and Yitzhaq Rabin has assigned two military and foreign policy teams to assess ways and means for the withdrawal of the Zionist regime's forces from the Golan Heights.

Certain events are taking place in Lebanon which are in keeping with the developments in Lebanon and Syria. Orders have been issued for the arrest and impeachment of 44 Hizballah members who staged an armed march on Jerusalem Day, and the Army has begun disarming Palestinian groups in the south.

The Lebanese foreign minister has openly announced that an international plan is being studied under which the Palestinians in Lebanon would be relocated to the affluent Arab countries. Faris Buwayz told the newspaper AL-SHIRA' that the Palestinians in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria would be given permanent residence in these countries, but 20 percent of the Palestinians in Lebanon would return to Palestine, while the remainder would be transferred to the vast and opulent Arab countries.

The plan unveiled by the Lebanese foreign minister was, in a way, implemented even in 1982, but in those days there was no possibility of a compromise and 'Arafat and the PLO had not adopted the path of peace and friendship. In that year Israel attacked Lebanon on the pretext of crushing the Palestinian guerrillas and had advanced up to Beirut. The Zionists embarked on a massacre of the Palestinians in the camps of Sabra and Shatila and only withdrew on condition that the Palestinian guerrillas led by PLO be expelled. It was then that 'Arafat and his group of Palestinian guerrillas left Lebanon.

The present plan revealed by the Lebanese foreign minister is aimed at distancing the Palestinians from the borders of occupied Palestine. Those Palestinians who reside in Lebanon are mainly opposed to 'Arafat and are guerrillas who infiltrate into the occupied territories. They carry out suicide missions; therefore removing them from the borders of the occupied territories is tantamount to closing southern Lebanon's borders to the revolutionary Palestinians.

The reining in of the Hizballah, the expulsion of the Palestinians in southern Lebanon, the ban on Hamas in Jordan, the change in the Israeli stance on withdrawal from the Golan Heights and, ultimately, Christopher's visit to the region and the resumption of the peace talks, are all factors which indicate a gradual change in the peace trend. This will be complete when Damascus gives the green light to the United States and Israel by announcing its acquiescence to the peace process. This will sweep out all opposition; and the opponents to this process will thus be consigned to the blade of the guillotine. [preceding word in English].

Kurdish 'Collaboration' With Israel, West Alleged

NC0205160494 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Apr 94 p 12

[Hasan Fathi commentary: "Northern Iraq, the Center of Conspiracy"]

[Text] Only a few days after the downing of the two UN helicopters in northern Iraq, the head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], Jalal Talabani, openly announced his intentions to occupy the oil-rich areas of the region and that he is not interested in joining the General Assembly of the federal Iraqi Government.

With regard to the helicopters that were attacked by U.S. airplanes, it is said that they were carrying Israeli and American experts. At the same time, Turkish military forces were entering northern Iraq on the pretext of crushing Turkish dissidents who oppose the Ankara regime.

Together these developments created conditions conducive to depriving Baghdad of its rich northern areas. Even though the solidarity and unity of the country is stressed publicly in conferences, the current trend seems to contradict such claims.

During his visit to France, PUK leader Jalal Talabani met with President Mitterrand and other French officials to elicit their consent for more extensive activity. All these actions are aimed at provoking the Kurds. It is interesting to note that most of these actions can be traced to Jalal Talabani.

Last year, in collaboration with the Turkish forces, Talabani attacked Kurdish dissidents' bases, where he killed and captured some of them. After this, an Islamic group in northern Iraq was attacked by the PUK and broken up. Talabani's extensive links with France, the United States, and Turkey are not hidden from anyone.

It is an irrefutable fact that Israeli experts and Turkish military officials are playing an active role in the ranks of the PUK peshmergas. They have used pretexts such as mutual differences with Baghdad to promote greater closeness between Turkey and Israel. However, this has caused even the Kurdish people to mistrust their own leaders and the Kurds no longer believe their promises and statements.

This is because their leaders are only concerned with their own personal interests. While the Kurds were being subjected to immense pressure and Iraqi Armed Forces were massacring the defenseless people with chemical weapons, their leaders had gone to Baghdad to meet Saddam Husayn and posed with him for the television cameras, mocking their own people. It is because of this very subservience of the Kurdish leaders that the years of the Kurdish people's struggle have resulted only in destruction and suppression.

Today when the Iraqi Kurds need assistance and support more than ever to surmount their economic problems, internal conflicts and ambitions prevent them from attaining their lawful rights. The situation in northern Iraq is now more serious than ever, because it has become the stomping ground of Zionists, who plan to manipulate the regional nations for their own political benefit.

New Regulations for Refugees Announced

NC0105085794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 1 May 94

[Report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent from Mashhad on 1 May—recorded]

[Text] The director general of the Aliens' Department in the Interior Ministry, Hoseyni, spoke to correspondents in Mashhad last night and said: On the basis of the new plan, nearly 35,000 Iraqi and Afghan citizens—who have received refugee status papers from the Islamic Republic of Iran—should report to the offices of the Aliens' Department of the Law Enforcement forces in the provincial centers to get their new refugee documents.

Regarding the continuation of the repatriation scheme for Afghan refugees in Iran, he said: With the concurrence of the Afghan Government and the United Nations, the return of approximately 850,000 Afghan refugees has been scheduled.

The director general of the Interior Ministry stated: About 543,000 of these refugees are people who have been given a temporary resident permit for six months under the scheme for identifying unauthorized refugees in Iran. They have a grace period until 2 July this year to remain in Iran.

On the legal problems pertaining to those persons who have Iranian and Afghan spouses, he clarified that the Government of Afghanistan has pledged that it will take the legal rights of the Iranian spouses into consideration. He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is the voluntary and honorable return of refugees. As for those refugees who have come to Iran from Kabul and Herat and are living in difficult conditions, he said: We have announced that we have no restrictions on the acceptance of refugees, but we prefer to assist them inside Afghanistan's territory.

Commenting on the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of a new group of refugees from Iraq, he said: In view of the pitiful plight of the Shiites in southern Iraq, nearly 7,000 Iraqi refugees have been housed in camps in Fars, Lorestan, and Khuzestan Provinces.

The director general of the Interior Ministry said: So far, no Azeri refugee is present in Iran and our Red Crescent organization is providing assistance to 50,000 Azeris in seven camps inside Azerbaijani territory.

300,000 Afghan Refugees To Return Home in 1994

LD0105141594 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] Mashad, Khorasan Prov., May 1, IRNA—Some 300,000 Afghan refugees residing in Iran will return home this year under a program worked out by a commission consisting of representatives of Iran, Afghanistan and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

According to the director general in charge of foreign nationals and immigration affairs at the Interior Ministry Ahmad Husseini, the repatriation of the refugees is to start from June 22.

Husseini recently visited the Afghan province of Harat along with other members of the commission to inspect the status of Afghan refugees who have returned home.

He told reporters here Saturday that the outcome of a plan concerning the repatriation of 850,000 refugees last year and their integration into Afghan society was satisfactory.

He emphasized that the Afghan refugees who have returned home have played a key role in the reconstruction of their country mainly due to their theoretical and practical skills.

In response to the request of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan, Iran has issued six month long residence permits for some 540,000 refugees who are living in Iran without having identification cards, Husseini added.

He stressed that during his stay in Harat he announced the Interior Ministry's readiness to set up camps inside Afghan territory for accomodation of refugees in emergency cases.

Iranian Goods in Demand in Azerbaijan

NC0105204794 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 20 Apr 94 p 4

[ETTELA'AT correspondent's report]

[Text] The goods exported by the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoy immense popularity in the markets of southern Azerbaijan, according to the press committee official of the Azerbaijani city of Lenkoran. He said: The facilities provided to Azerbaijan for the importing of

Iranian products, their suitable prices and quality are among the factors that have enabled Iranian products to attract greater attention and have greater commercial competitiveness in this region.

Tofik Allavardiyev, the press committee official of Lenkoran, elaborated: The cities of Lenkoran and Astara have become wholesale centers for Iranian commodities in Azerbaijan. He added: The merchants of the republics of Dagestan and Chechenya are among the permanent customers of Iranian products, particularly of preserves and plastic materials.

An Iranian trader in Lenkoran said: Since Lenkoran is considered a bridge for the transportation of Iranian goods to various parts of the Caucasus, most of our businessmen display a special interest in operating here. He added that the Iranian products most in demand include apples, dairy products, potatoes, tomato paste, dill pickles, chocolates, machine-made carpets, and low-price garments.

Allavardiyev said: As soon as the Iranian products arrive, long queues of store owners and retailers form outside the import companies.

One of the merchants resident in Lenkoran, Ali Teymuriyev, said: Our proximity to the Islamic Republic of Iran has been of immense assistance in eliminating the bottlenecks resulting from privatization in the southern regions in Azerbaijan. He added: Most of the traders in this region have—with their prompt payments—been able to elicit the attention of the Iranian businessmen for the purchase of these goods for resale in markets in other parts of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus.

Tajikistan Broadcasting More Iranian Radio, TV

NC0205064994 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Apr 94 p 11

[IRNA report from Dushanbe]

[Text] The Tajikistan radio and television station has displayed an increasing interest in pure Iranian music and programs in the past few weeks. Radio Dushanbe is carrying more than an hour of traditional Iranian music daily.

Tajikistan's television has also carried Iranian programs such as the "Shakh-e Tuba" [the branch of a tree in Paradise], the serial "A'ineh" [mirror], and some Iranian feature films and has included Iranian traditional music in its musical repertoires.

The Iranian programs have been warmly received by the Farsi-speaking Tajik television aficionados and audiences, which has resulted in more time being allocated to these programs.

The presentation of these Iranian programs by the Tajikistan radio and television stations has drawn the attention of the citizens of this country toward their mother tongue and is gradually familiarizing them with certain expressions in Farsi that were not in vogue in Tajikistan earlier.

In the past year, more than 3,400 minutes of programs produced by the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been disseminated by Tajikistan television.

Rial Falls To 2,700 to Dollar

LD0305105894 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—The major currencies gained strength against rial at money market Tuesday as compared with Monday's rates. The U.S. dollar, German mark and pound sterling, up by rls. 50, 10 and 90, were exchanged at rls. 2,700, 1,640 and 4,040 respectively. Bahar-e Azadi gold coin, 0.235 ounce of 22 carat gold, was sold at rls. 259,000, rls. 3,000 more than Monday.

Pakistan

Bhutto Speaks on Kashmir, Violence in Karachi

BK0105164294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 1 May 94

[Text] The prime minister has said the government is committed to establish a society free of exploitation and eliminate differences between rural and urban areas in the country.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto was addressing a huge public meeting in Qila Didar Singh this after formally inaugurating the wheat harvesting campaign in Gujranwala District. The meeting was attended, among others, by the Punjab governor, Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf Hussain; Chief Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmad Watto; Federal Ministers Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal and Nawab Mohammad Yusuf Talpur; provincial ministers; members of parliament; and notables of the area. The prime minister said the government had allocated huge amounts in the budget for development of the country and to raise the standard of living of the common man. She said the government has increased the support price of wheat when the crop has not been reaped as yet. As a result of this, the whole benefit of price increase will go to the farmers.

Earlier, addressing a gathering after inauguration of Sui gas supply and digital telephone exchange at Malikwal near Mandi Bahauddin, the prime minister said the government is introducing economic, industrial, and social reforms to solve the problems of the people. She said the government is taking steps to make the country self-sufficient in food grains. The prime minister said Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiri people in their just struggle for their right of self-determination. She said Pakistan believes in supporting all struggles of the people for freedom. She said no power can deny the Kashmiris their right. The prime minister announced that an industrial estate will be set up Mandi Bahauddin.

Later, talking to newsmen in Badshahpur near Mandi Bahauddin, the prime minister said the government will fully protect the life and property of the people and not tolerate any violence. The prime minister deplored the fresh wave of violence in Karachi which has claimed several previous lives and left many injured. She observed that fresh violence had started after the visit of the opposition leader, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and regretted that the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leader was issuing instructions for disturbances while sitting in London. She said if Murtaza Bhutto has to confront charges despite being her own brother, why cannot Altaf Hussain come back and do the same. She said in 1989 also her government tried to accommodate MQM but in vain. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said there are forces which do not want to see Pakistan progressing, but her government would continue its peace efforts. About the victims recent sniper firing, she said government would compensate them and register cases against law breakers.

Violence Continues To Affect Karachi Districts

BK0305044594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Normal life in Karachi remained affected today. Reports of sporadic incidents of shooting and arson have been received from various areas of Karachi East and the central district. The troublemakers set at least six vehicles on fire, damaging them. According to PPI, a press note issued in Karachi says eight people sustained bullet wounds; two of them subsequently died. Many business centers and industrial establishments were closed. Traffic was light, particularly in the central and eastern districts. The press note says the situation was brought under control with the help of the rangers and the police. Some arrests have been made, and the police have registered cases and started investigations.

The district magistrate of Karachi South has enforced Section 144 [banning assembly of more than five persons] throughout the district. There have also been some incidents of violence and disruption of law and order in Hyderabad.

In Karachi, a spokesman of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] appealed to the civilian population of the Sindh to resolve the situation and support the provincial government in its attempts to eliminate terrorism, so that peace is restored to the Sindh and hatred eliminated. He said the negative politics of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] has created enmity between itself and other communities, causing serious damage to the Muhajirs, besides creating serious economic difficulties for the residents of Karachi and Hyderabad. The people want to eliminate these problems.

The spokesman said the Army operation was started not by the PPP but by the previous government. He said the terrorism to which MQM leader Altaf Hussain is referring is of his own creation and he should clear the charges against him in court. The spokesman added that the Nawaz Sharif government and not the PPP government is responsible for the excesses mentioned by Altaf Hussain.

Mirani Views F-16's Deal, Kashmir Situation

BK3004100294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani said that if matters relating to the F-16 deal aree not settled with the United States, the world market is open for Pakistan to purchase other planes. Talking to newsmen at Larkana, he said Pakistan will not accept any condition in this deal that is against its national interests because there are other things more important than F-16's. Negotiations, however, are in progress.

When asked about occupied Kashmir, the defense minister spoke of the heavy deployment of Indian forces there. He said, however, that our frontiers are well protected and we are capable of facing all eventualities.

To other question, Aftab Shabaz Mirani replied that the prime minister has openly asked the opposition to end its boycott and return to the National Assembly. He said the government could still adopt many measures to end the confrontation and bring the opposition back to the negotiating table.

Editorial Assails Congressman's Statements

BK0105114594 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 May 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Mr Hamilton's Logic"]

[Text] The speech of Mr Lee Hamilton, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, at a meeting of the Asia Society, needs to be noted for the perception about Kashmir in the US Congress. It could, of course, be different from that of the US Administration, but it does reflect the views of the most powerful group of US legislators who are likely to fashion the future course of American policy in the Sub-Continent. That this group has for long been subjected to pressure of the Indian lobby in Congress is clear from two specific statements that Mr. Hamilton made. One, that the Kashmir plebiscite proposal had been overtaken by history and two, that the present Line of Control should be made into an international border. The first is obviously the repeat of the Indian line which says that since local elections have been held in the Valley and since Sheikh Abdullah, the then pro-India Kashmiri leader, authenticated the State's accession to India, the promise of plebiscite given to the people of Kashmir has been overtaken by history. The argument suffers from two serious flaws. First, that the elections were held under Indian supervision and not that of the UN. And second, that Sheikh Abdullah soon realised that he had been tricked into accepting the accession of Kashmir and wanted its reversal. He was jailed for 14 years. This is the history that is supposed to have overtaken the UN resolutions. It was clearly contrived with a lot of deceit and chicanery. To accept such a history to legitimise an immoral act and then fashion the future on that basis, is to repudiate the very principles the US stands for. When Hitler occupied Poland, why did America decide to stand up and fight? Why was not that piece of history accepted as a fait accompli? The answer lies in the fact that the circumstances which lead to a historical event too have to be judged. If the Indian occupation of Kashmir has now to be legitimised by the US, then the American people should ask whether India had promised to hold a plebiscite or not, under the UN supervision? Or whether the people of Kashmir ever surrendered that right? Or whether India ever stopped manipulating the local governments of the Valley? Or whether it dares to hold and election there? These are moral questions that need to be addressed before accepting the fait accompli.

Mr. Hamilton's second proposal that the Line of Control be converted into a permanent border, also echoes the Indian line. But in this case he began contradicting it himself when he said in the same speech that any negotiated settlement must take into account the wishes of the people of Kashmir. How does one ascertain those wishes? And what if the people of Kashmir do not want Indian rule? Hitler too could have said that he would address the economic grievances of the Polish people, provided he was allowed to rule there. The faces of land-grabbers change but moral principles do not.

Suspension of India's Missile Program Noted

BK2904130594 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Apr 94 p 7

[Article by Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema: "Business Before Agni for India"]

[Text] On 21st April, 1994 a newspaper report said that India has decided to cap its indigenously developed intermediate range missile programme, Agni, temporarily due to severe financial crunch. Another report published in a different newspaper talked about the firm resolve of the Indian PM [Prime Minister] Narasimha Rao not to abandon India's nuclear programme. Explaining in detail introduction of various types of missiles into the Indian defence system, Rao took pains to clarify that the Americans were not pressurising Indians to give up trials of 'Agni'. While the 1960s witnessed intense discussion revolving about the operationalisation of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBMs) with nuclear warheads, the 80s and 90s have seen the arrival of precision guided missile system capable of carrying both nuclear and conventional warheads.

India embarked upon an ambitious programme of missile development and their eventual deployment some 20 years back. In addition to many strategic considerations, slow development of combat aircraft for deep-strike and interdiction contributed enormously to the accelerated pace of missile development programme. The Indian programme is a fairly comprehensive one which includes missiles like Agni (intermediate range ballistic missile), Prithivi (medium range surface to surface missile), Nag (anti-tank missile), Akash and Trishul (surface to air missile).

Some reports suggest that both the Indian army and Indian airforce are going to deploy 75 and 25 Prithivi missiles by the middle or this year. Having successfully completed the third launch of Agni, indicating that India has now acquired a capability of delivering one toner [as published] warheads (both nuclear as well as conventional) to a distance over 2000 km, the Indians are now engaged in a fierce debate whether or not to deploy Agni quickly.

With the improvised precision guidance system of Indian missiles, one expects that they would soon be employed. Besides, many in India vociferously stress that the fruits of hard work in this area are beginning to pay dividends now, and that Agni should not be abandoned at this point. Why then the capping of the Agni programme?

Four factors need to be analysed for an answer. The official reason is of course the problem of finances. This is hard to believe. A country which has been spending over five crores a day to violently suppress the freedom struggle in Kashmir is unlikely to abandon a programme which has placed it in the exclusive club of those in possession of ICBMs. In any case India will deploy Prithivi missile which costs little over three crores each. Why has this plan not been postponed for the same reason?

The second factor can be technical problems. But for the successful third launch, one could have accepted this as, at that time, the problem of nose-cone and some complexities of precision guidance system frequently cropped up. Many criticised huge spending on the Agni programme at the time. But now that the Indians have overcome all the technical problems, and to quote the Indian Chief of Army Staff General Joshi, Agni has put India in a 'totally different league', the reasoning sounds absurd.

The third reason could be that it is meant as a sop to the Americans. It is common knowledge that the US desperately wants to promote nuclear non-proliferation in the region. Both India and Pakistan, Pakistan much more than India, have been feeling the pinch of American pressure. But PM Rao has been denying there was any pressure on India from the US and that even if there was, Delhi would resist it. It is a matter of fact that the Americans have been dealing with Delhi with kid gloves. But they have their concerns. According to an American analyst working for Carnegie Endowment: 'If India decides to make Agni operational, it would escalate US fears about an open ended nuclear missiles race in the region'. He further states that the success of Agni has not only rendered the MTCR [Missile Technology Control

Regime] ineffective but seriously jeopardised one of the US key mechanism to control missile proliferation in South Asia. It seems that the government of India withstood all the pressures until Indian scientists had completed the requisite spadework and conveyed the success of Agni to the Indian PM. Cognizant of the American interests in the area, a short term delay in actual deployment can not only effectively ward off the pressure but may also be styled as a friendly gesture to the US to be encashed at a proper time.

The final factor is that it is a tactical withdrawal. The Agni missile can be operationalised within two years even if it is frozen at the present level of preparedness. Besides, Agni has already demonstrated India's technological superiority, putting it on hold for the time being will not be a big step backward.

Also the US and many other western nations are viewing the Indian economic market favourably. They want to and are investing heavily there. The postponement of the Agni programme is a symbolic gesture to these potential investors and trade partners that India means business.

Commentary Views Reform Package for Northern Areas

BK2904124994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Commentary by Ejaz Hussain]

[Text] The federal government created history last Monday [April 25] by announcing a comprehensive and far-reaching package of judicial and administrative reforms for Northern Areas. The package includes grant of adult franchise given for the first time to the people of the Northern Areas, party-based elections, and reservation of two seats for women in the elected council. The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal, said the chief executive of the Northern Areas will have the status of a federal minister. The Northern Areas will be granted fiscal autonomy. The existing post of judicial commissioner would also be abolished, and in its place the chief court would be set up which will be headed by a retired judge of a provincial high court. He also said the post of chief commissioner will be replaced by chief secretary assisted by four secretaries. The minister announced October as the month of general elections to the enlarged Northern Areas Council. The people of the area, including leading politicians, lawyers, intellectuals, and laymen, have hailed this historic decision of the government. The Northern Areas with an area of over 29,000 square miles and a population of nearly 7 lakh have six districts; namely, Gilgit, Skardu, Baltistan, (Jia Mer), (Khujar), and (Laochi).

The region is enormously important to Pakistan for a number of reasons. First of all, its picturesque beauty, snow-covered mountains, fabulous lakes, crystal glaciers, orchards and gardens, minerals and fruits fascinate tourists from all over the world. The government of Pakistan earns over 70 million rupees annually from the tourism industry of the region. Besides, the legendary Karakoram Highway, which is a towering emblem of unbreakable Sino-Pak friendship, links Pakistan with the Central Asian Republics, which are integral part of Economic Cooperation Organization.

The region is also significant from the strategic point of view, as Siachen Glacier—the highest battlefield in the world—is also situated in the Northern Areas. The people of these areas won their freedom through armed struggle against Dogra rulers soon after the creation of Pakistan. However, their grievances and heritage from the Dogra colonial era were not redressed. The late Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto started taking steps in the right direction. He constituted a land commission for them, created Ministry for Northern Areas, allocated service and education quota for them, started development programs, set up dispensaries and health units, and encouraged NGO's [nongovernment organizations] like Agha Khan Trust and Gilgit Society. He abolished the notorious Frontier Crimes Regulation.

The caretaker prime minister, Moin Qureshi, during his three months' rule, took a few vital decisions. It would not be inaccurate to say that Moin Qureshi's proposals for reforms in the Northern Areas provided impetus to the incumbent prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, who has left no stone unturned to offer all types of incentives to the people of the region. The prime minister in the fall of 1993 announced 70 development schemes for Northern Areas. They included housing, communication, transportation, education, health, employment, and women emancipation. She has reaffirmed that Northern Areas would be among the leading beneficiaries of the social action programs. She has also emphasized the establishment of an industrial zone in the Northern Areas and investors would be offered wide-ranging incentives. The prime minister has also asked the OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation] experts to prepare feasibility report for providing fuel facilities to the region, specially natural gas. The prime minister is determined to bring the Northern Areas and other neglected parts of the country at par with the other areas. She is well aware of the fact that democracy means uniformity of privileges and that socioeconomic and political discrepancies damage the entire structure of a state. This is one of the interpretations of her future vision of Pakistan.